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Masonic Chronicler  
Catechism**



# The Masonic Chronicler // Catechism

RELATING TO MASONIC LAW AND  
USAGE TOGETHER WITH SUG-  
GESTIONS TO MASTERS,  
SECRETARIES AND  
MEMBERS



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# INTRODUCTION

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Since October, 1907, THE MASONIC CHRONICLER has maintained a department for study and instruction, under the heading: "Questions and Answers on Masonic Law and Usage." The purpose was editorially announced as follows:

"This department is designed to be of practical assistance to lodge officers in discharging their duties and to students of Masonic law, usage and custom, who are honestly seeking information. To all such the editor promises the best help he can give. We have not the authority to speak *ex cathedra*, nor the necessary knowledge to settle all mooted questions, nor yet do we propose to run a puzzle box to solve conundrums and hypothetical questions. Our attitude toward the craft is that of a fellow-learner, and it is our desire to so conduct the department as to stimulate independent thought, encourage careful study of Masonic principles and promote the general advance of fraternal education among the brethren. To this end we invite practical questions, suggestions, criticisms and contributions bearing upon subjects under discussion."

The response from the craft has been gratifying, even beyond our expectation, and great interest has been shown by brethren, both official and lay. Over 300 questions pertaining to Masonic history, tradition, law, usage or custom have been propounded and discussed, answered or explained.

The favor with which our efforts have been received has been so general, and the wish to have this information in permanent and available shape has been so often expressed that the publishers have determined to put these questions and answers in book form, which is now

offered under the title of "The Masonic Chronicler's Catechism," with the hope that the educational feature of our paper may thereby be emphasized and its field of usefulness increased.

In preparing the copy for publication it was found that in a few instances questions had been duplicated. The duplicates have been omitted from book. In cases where the questions or answers presented a variation from what had been previously published, even though the difference was slight, the question has been retained. A complete index has been prepared, the index references being to the number of the question.

A table, showing the vote necessary to decide various questions, has been added, and also a few pages of suggestions by M. Wor. Bro. Edward Cook that may be helpful to new members and inexperienced officers.



# VOTING

Questions submitted to the lodge are decided by votes or ballots. The necessary vote or ballot may be a majority, two-thirds, three-fourths or unanimous, according to the nature of the question. Vote, as herein used, means an open expression by show of hands or by rising; ballot means a strictly secret form of voting, expressed by white and black balls, balls and cubes, or paper slips, written or printed.

When a question requiring a ballot can be so put as to be perfectly plain and to admit of an answer by "yes" or "no" (for example, "Is he guilty?" or "Shall he be expelled?"), it is often more convenient and a saving of time to use perforated slips of paper for the ballot, with "yes" printed on one end and "no" on the other.

The Master may, at his discretion, direct that any ordinary question shall be submitted to ballot. The following condensed summary shows what matters are decided by each of the eight different requirements:

## A Majority Vote

1. Accepts charges.
2. Amends charges. (Accused must have notice.)
3. Censures for breach of lodge etiquette.
4. Decides ordinary business questions.
5. Receives petitions for degrees or membership (when not received by the usual unanimous tacit consent).
6. Remits dues.
7. Waives jurisdiction over Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts.
8. Withdraws petitions for affiliation.

## A Two-thirds Vote

1. Amends by-laws (after proposition in writing lies over).
2. Withdraws charges.

## A Three-fourths Vote

1. Assents to removal of lodge when jurisdiction is changed. (Previous notice necessary.)

### A Unanimous Vote

1. Consolidates lodges. (Previous notice must be given.)
2. Requests dispensation to confer degree in less than usual time.

### A Majority Ballot

1. Elects officers. (Written ballots necessary.)

### A Two-thirds Ballot

1. Finds guilty after trial.
2. Fixes penalty. (Expulsion, suspension, etc.)
3. Suspends for non-payment of dues.
4. Reinstates, after suspension for non-payment of dues. (Written petition necessary and must lie over one stated meeting.)
5. Recommends restoration after expulsion. (Must lie over one stated meeting.)
6. Recommends formation of new lodges. (Petition must lie over four weeks, and number voting for and against must be recorded.)

### A Three-fourths Ballot

1. Terminates honorary membership. (Previous notice must be given.)

### A Unanimous Ballot

1. Elects to degrees, or to membership by affiliation.
2. Elects to honorary membership. (After previous notice.)
3. Waves jurisdiction over profanes.

## SUGGESTIONS

### To Newly Made Masters

1. Be prompt. Open your lodge at the time named in the by-laws. Dispatch the business and work as expeditiously as is consistent with dignity, decorum and impressiveness, and thus make it possible to close at an hour pleasing to the older members and the loved ones at home. If members are dilatory in their attendance, a lesson or two in promptness by declaring meetings off which cannot be opened with a quorum present at the appointed hour, will bring the desired result.
2. Be suave in demeanor, but firm in action. Be dignified without being arbitrary or haughty, and be courteous without being subservient. Be willing to take the responsibility, because of being confident that you are right. If in doubt and competent advice not at hand, postpone action until next stated meeting.
3. Let the dignity and decorum with which you preside proclaim the fact that you are master of yourself, the lodge and the situation, and it will not be necessary to make verbal announcement of your position.
4. Make yourself familiar with the installation ceremony and endeavor to live up to the admonitions and excellent advice therein given.
5. Be the first to obey the law and thus set an example that you can justly require every member to follow.
6. Do not be anxious to break any record of past achievements, but endeavor to make a record that shall be a credit to you, your lodge and to Masonry.
7. Remember the precept, "Whosoever of you will be the chiefest shall be the servant of all."
8. At the end of your term crown your achievements by becoming a good Past Master, which means that you are to resume your place on the level with the other brethren and be always ready to serve when called upon, but not anxious to "butt in."

### To Secretaries

1. At each stated meeting of the lodge the Secretary should prepare for the Master's convenience a memorandum of the business and work which may be expected

## SUGGESTIONS.

to come before the lodge, including any special order set for that meeting, reports due from investigating or other committees, and unfinished or new business, and he should present only such matters to the lodge as have the sanction of the Master.

2. He should notify members of their appointment on committees and specify the date when reports are due.

3. He should promptly notify all applicants for degrees or membership of the result of the ballot and inform candidates elected for degrees when to present themselves.

4. He shall take the necessary steps to notify all lodges of concurrent jurisdiction of all petitions for degrees received and of those rejected, always bearing in mind that the ballot cannot be had until twenty days after such notice has been given. In Chicago this information is generally given through a circular, the publisher of which is a deputy or assistant for the Secretary of each lodge using the circular, but he has no official standing or responsibility. The Secretary of the lodge is the responsible party and should in every case see to it that the proper notice is sent to the lodges.

5. One of the most important of the Secretary's duties is the collection of annual dues. With the co-operation of the Master and a little energy, coupled with tact, this may be accomplished without friction and the finances of the lodge can be kept in businesslike shape with the account of every member balanced annually. It is a good plan near the close of the year, say about the first of November, to send each member a printed notice, stating in substance that the annual meeting is approaching and that it is desirable to make a good financial showing and that having this in view a statement of account is sent to every member. That there is charged to him for the term ending \_\_\_\_\_ dues to the amount of \_\_\_\_\_, and that if he can make it convenient to pay the same to the Secretary before the annual meeting it will greatly assist him in his official work and be of service to the lodge.

6. The Secretary should never lose sight of the fact that it is his first and constant duty to observe the will and pleasure of the Worshipful Master, to be courteous in his bearing, prompt in his attendance and diligent in business, but that it is not required of him to "run things."

## To Newly Made Masons

If you have grasped the idea that in becoming a Master Mason you have only entered the portals of an opportunity capable of being developed into a field of great enjoyment and usefulness, the following hints may be of service to you:

1. Make yourself familiar with enough of the ritual to pass a creditable examination in all three of the degrees. This will enable you to prove yourself a Mason, "out of your own head."
2. Procure from the Secretary a certificate of membership and ask him to get the indorsement thereon by the Grand Secretary of the regularity of your lodge; this, together with your annual receipt for dues, will constitute the documentary evidence of standing that is required of visitors in some jurisdictions. Consider your knowledge of Masonry as your chief and best asset and that documentary evidence is merely supplementary and not the sole reliance.
3. Be prompt and regular in your attendance upon your own lodge and make frequent visits to other lodges to prevent any tendency to narrowness or provincialism, always remembering that visitation is a privilege or courtesy and not a right.
4. Learn the ceremonies of opening the lodge and become sufficiently posted to take some part in the degree work, so that you can promptly respond when the Master calls upon you for assistance.
5. Study the Grand Lodge by-laws and make yourself familiar with the by-laws of your own lodge.
6. Be ambitious to learn what is meant by the "landmarks of Masonry," "the principles and ground work of Masonry," "the original plan of Masonry" and "the body of Masonry," and to be able, through this knowledge, to tell wherein Masonry differs from modern societies and clubs.
7. Remember that before you gained admission into our institution you declared that you were prompted to solicit its privileges because of a sincere wish of being useful to your fellows, and that the full fruition of this desire is now open to you and affords the opportunity for you to become a real Mason by a lifelong service to humanity.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **On Masonic Law and Usage**

**Question 1.** What is the rule governing concurrent jurisdiction in Chicago and jurisdiction over petitioners residing between the boundaries of Chicago and adjacent territory?

**Answer**—The law upon the subject of concurrent jurisdiction is clearly and admirably set forth in the Blue Book, but so concisely as to justify, if not require, some elaboration for the benefit of those whose thought has not been especially directed to the matter. The broad general principle as to jurisdiction is that a petitioner must apply to that lodge in his State which is nearest to his residence, without any regard to corporate or other geographical lines; consequently, a petitioner living in the city near the outskirts might be within the jurisdiction of a lodge outside the city or one living outside the limits might be in the jurisdiction of a city lodge. This general law is so far modified as to make all the lodges of a city partners in jurisdictional rights, but not adding to or subtracting from the territory already covered by the individual lodges. The candidate in the intermediate territory must still go to the outside lodge if that is nearer to his residence, but may petition any one of all the city lodges if one of them is the nearest lodge to his residence. From this it follows that corporate lines are of no importance, except to determine which lodges participate in the jurisdiction over territory common to all.

**Ques. 2.** When should a lodge be introduced to a visitor, and when should the visitor be introduced to the lodge?

**Answer**—The general rule regarding introductions is that the inferior is presented or introduced to the superior. In Masonry the amenities sometimes justify a liberal interpretation of this rule in favor of the visitor or guest; otherwise it might be doubtful whether a lodge could be introduced to any one except the Grand Master or his special proxy. A due sense of propriety and politeness would seem to indicate that whenever a visitor is honored by and accepts an invitation to the East, he

may be further honored by introducing the lodge to him. In other cases, if there is any introduction, let it be of the brother to the lodge.

Ques. 3. What is a clandestine lodge of Masons; when did clandestine lodges originate, and whence came the clandestine lodges of Chicago?

Answer—The dictionary definition of clandestine is “conducted with secrecy,” and the words “hidden, secret, private, concealed, underhand, sly, stealthy, surreptitious, furtive and fraudulent” are given as synonyms. Masonically, clandestine may mean any or all of these unsavory things, with the added elements of illegality, irregularity or want of authority. The Constitution of the Grand Lodge of Illinois says that “any organization, association, parties or persons professing to have any authority, powers or privileges in Ancient Craft Masonry, not derived from this Grand Lodge, within the State of Illinois, are declared to be clandestine and all intercourse with or recognition of them or any of them is prohibited.” Bad men have always been prone to counterfeit the acts of good men, and it is probable that clandestine lodges have been nearly co-existent with the genuine; at least we are certain that they existed when our obligations were formulated. We know of two classes of clandestine lodges in Chicago. One class, composed largely of colored men whose lodges claim descent from African Lodge of early American history, and another class deriving their alleged powers from the seceders from the regular Grand Lodge of Ohio. There may be still others, because the ways of wrong and evil are very numerous, while there is only one right way.

Ques. 4. Should a Masonic lodge prefer charges against and discipline one of its members who persistently, openly and notoriously violates section 259 of the criminal code of the State of Illinois, or any other criminal code of said state? Section 259 is as follows: “Whoever keeps open any tippling house or place where liquor is sold or given away upon the first day of the week (commonly called Sunday) shall be fined not exceeding \$200.” I do not desire an opinion as to the right of a Mason to sell liquor in Illinois. The liquor question is not involved in this proposition. In other words, if a Mason violates the law of the land, is he violating the laws of Masonry, whether it is this criminal law or any other criminal law?

Answer—As the questioner has definitely excluded any

consideration of the rights or wrongs of liquor selling and confines his inquiry to the one point, whether the violation of a criminal law of the land is a violation of the laws of Masonry, we may make our answer very brief, and unhesitatingly say that we think it is, because Masonry distinctly teaches loyalty to country and obedience to its laws. But where the complaint is based solely upon an alleged violation of a criminal law, as indicated in the question, it is well to let Masonic prosecution wait for the proper court to determine whether such violation exists.

Ques. 5. I would like to know how many Masons there are in the United States, as nearly as can be asserted.

Answer—A table compiled by M. W. Bro. William Sherer, Past Grand Master of New York, shows that on May 1, 1907, there were in the United States something more than 1,100,000 Masons. This table may be found on page 337, Appendix, Part I. Proceedings of Grand Lodge of Illinois for 1907.

Ques. 6. Is it proper to give the grand honors to the Past Masters of the lodge when they enter the lodge to take charge on Past Masters' night?

Answer—Past Masters of a lodge, as such, are not entitled to the grand honors, either singly or collectively. The grand honors are for Grand Masters or their special proxies, Past Grand Masters, and Grand Lodges or their duly accredited representatives. They are also given as a part of the exercises in certain ceremonial observances. For directions how and when to give the grand honors, see Book of Ceremonials, pages 14, 21, 28, 58, 59, 67, 74, 75, 81.

Ques. 7. When a petitioner gives his occupation as superintendent, manager, clerk, salesman, etc., have the requirements of the law relating to petitions been complied with?

Answer—They have not. The manifest intention of the law is that the petitioner shall tell what sort of business he is engaged in, so that the brethren may know whether his calling is a reputable one. A lodge should not receive a petition unless it gives the applicant's occupation in such clear and definite terms as to leave no doubt about the nature or character of his vocation. Superintendent, manager, clerk, etc., relate to a place in or department of a business, but do not describe the business itself, and therefore do not meet the requirements.

Such terms apply equally to liquor selling, banking, meat packing or railroading, and are so vague and indefinite as to sometimes raise the suspicion that the petitioner desires to conceal his real occupation.

Ques. 8. What is the name and location of the two largest lodges in the United States?

Answer—The latest information at hand is a table compiled by Most Worshipful Brother Jesse B. Anthony, Past Grand Master of New York, which shows that in May, 1905, Genesee Falls Lodge No. 507, Rochester, N. Y., had 1,111 members, and Minnesota Lodge No. 19, Minneapolis, Minn., 964. At that time these were the two largest lodges in the United States. Garden City Lodge No. 141, Chicago, was third in the list then, with 957 members. It now reports 1,195 members, and each of four other lodges in Chicago, viz., Covenant, Union Park, Englewood and Golden Rule, reports more than 800 members. We are unable to say at this writing whether the lodges at Rochester and Minneapolis are still in the lead as to numbers.

Ques. 9. Does the Grand Lodge of Illinois recognize any other Masonic jurisdiction in Germany besides the Grand Lodge of Hamburg?

Answer—The Grand Lodge of Illinois, by adopting the special report of the Committee on Correspondence (see Proceedings of 1907, appendix part 1, page 14) at its recent session, accorded qualified recognition to the following bodies, viz.: The three Prussian Grand Lodges—the three Globes, the Grand Lodge of Germany, and the Royal York of Friendship, at Berlin; the Grand Lodge of Concord (*Zur Eintracht*), at Darmstadt; Eclectic Union, Frankfurt; Saxony, Dresden; The Sun (*Zur Sonne*), Bayreuth; Hamburg, Hamburg; Holland (*Groot Oosten der Nederlanden*), The Hague; National, of Egypt, Cairo. Also the lodges composing the Free Association of Five Independent Lodges in Germany, viz.: Minerva, of the Three Palms, and Baldwin of the Linden, both at Leipzig; Archimedes of the Three Tracing Boards, Altenburg; Carl of the Wreath of Rue, Hildburghausen; Archimedes of the Eternal Union, Gera. Qualified recognition is explained to mean “recognition to the extent that will warrant the Masons of the obedience of the Grand Lodge of Illinois in visiting their lodges, with the consent thereof, and will warrant Illinois lodges in receiving on like terms the members of the obedience of any of the said bodies as visitors”

or as applicants for affiliation." In other words, the Grand Lodge of Illinois confessed itself as lacking the knowledge necessary to accord them full recognition and lacking the courage necessary to deny it to them, thereby putting the responsibility up to individual lodges, to determine this important question each for itself.

Ques. 10. Are there Masons of Jewish faith who have more than the Master's degree?

Ques. 11. Is there anything inconsistent with or in violation of a broad Jewish faith in the Masonic degrees beyond the Master Mason's degree?

Ques. 12. If my question can be answered without violating any confidence, please state, Can the Thirty-second degree be reached without making an acknowledgment of one's belief in the divinity of Christ?

Answer—These three questions are so intimately related that we group them together in our brief and imperfect reply, which is necessarily tentative and suggestive rather than decisive or conclusive. Let us preface our answer by saying: First, that we long ago received the various degrees conferred by chapter, council, commandery and consistory, and trust that we experienced and are still enjoying a moral uplift from each of them. Second, that we could not if we would, and would not if we could, print in these columns anything to betray the secrets of the so-called higher degrees, or in derogation of their beauties or of their highly instructive and moral teachings. Third, that Ancient Craft Masonry—that Masonry which "unites men of every country, sect and opinion"—is all embodied in three degrees, viz., Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, and that anything beyond this, though it may be beautiful, attractive and instructive, is an addendum, elaboration or order, lacking the breadth necessary to make it a part of the original institution. Fourth, that while Masonry teaches morality, and by symbolism touches man's religious nature, it does not set up a fixed system of theology or call for religious definitions beyond requiring a belief in God. Fifth, for the purposes of this reply we will adopt the commonly accepted hypothesis that there are many degrees or grades in Masonry, and will, so far as we are able, try to give our correspondent some practical help.

There are many brethren of the Jewish faith who are members of the chapter and greatly enjoy their relations therewith, and who find there nothing to destroy the

tenets of their religious belief, although some questions which may have arisen in their minds when studying the symbolism of the Master Mason's degree (particularly such things as the references to the Lion of the Tribe of Judah) probably received a little emphasis, as they advanced to these grades. Few Jews have become members of the commandery, and none can take this step who is unwilling to accept a doctrine or make a profession which history shows is at the basis of Templarism, but which is in opposition to the Jewish religion. For several years after the consistory was started in Chicago its grades were conferred only upon those who had previously taken the commandery degrees, but this restriction was removed long ago, and these honors are now open to Master Masons. Certain teachings in these degrees are akin to those features in Templarism that are not acceptable to our Jewish brethren, but these have not deterred some of this faith from taking and apparently enjoying these preferments, although it is a little difficult to understand how they can do so. It should be remembered, however, that there were two reasons why Jack did not eat his supper, and also that one reason why he was not *invited* was that he was supposed to have no *appetite*. Our interrogator doubtless knows better than we do that some Jews are more strict, literal and orthodox than others, and that statements or teachings that to some would appear to speak of a risen Lord, to others would seem to have reference only to a coming Messiah, and that therefore the applicant's own point or breadth of view would have much to do in answering his questions.

Ques. 13. What is the proper or legal manner of objecting to a candidate who has been elected but not initiated? Must the objection be made in writing?

Ques. 14. When a member makes objection to a candidate who has been elected is it necessary to disclose the nature of the objection?

Answer—A member's objection to the initiation of an elected candidate may be made orally, or in writing to the Master, or in open lodge. The reason for the objection need not be given in either case, but may be stated if the objector chooses to give it. The better way is to make the objection to the Master orally and privately and not to go into particulars. In this way the Master alone knows the identity of the objector and all discussion is avoided. It is the Master's duty to have the

petition fee returned and to have the objection entered of record with the date, so that in his absence the candidate will not be initiated. If the Master goes out of office before the expiration of the objection (one year from date thereof), he should call his successor's attention to the record and tell him the name of the objector, so that no one else can withdraw the objection.

[A correspondent doubts the accuracy of our answer to 13 and 14, and asks from whom the Master gets the right to disclose to his successor the name of the objector to an elected candidate. We fraternally request our brother to bear in mind that the Master receives the objection as the executive officer of the lodge and that it therefore becomes his official duty when he goes out of office to turn over to his successor the pending or unexpired responsibility in order that the rights of the objector shall surely be respected. For the reason given in the answer this not only requires him to call attention to the fact of objection, but also to give the name of the objector. There is no betrayal of trust in this, because the case was entrusted to the Master and no one but the Master is informed. The Master needs no special authority to perform a manifest official duty.]

Ques. 15. Has the Masonic fraternity of Scotland any such thing as a provisional or qualifying ceremony to be conferred on the sons of Master Masons before they arrive at lawful age and before they are qualified for regular membership?

Answer—We think the English and Scotch constitutions do not expressly recognize the relation referred to in this question, but their traditions and practice do permit them to initiate what is known as “a lewis,” by which is meant the son of a Master Mason between the ages of 18 and 21. The term “levis” is derived from the French word “levis,” a device for hitching the hoisting apparatus to stones, and means strength. Its application to the sons of Master Masons is that they are supposed to sustain, support or strengthen the declining years of their fathers. It is claimed that making a lewis a Mason was practiced to a limited extent in the early history of Masonry in the United States, and this former practice is supposed by some to account for the initiation of Washington before he was of lawful age. This very questionable practice has been revived recently in a very limited way and extended in a very unique and heretofore unheard of fashion in North Dakota by authorizing

the reception of petitions from the sons or *nephews* of affiliated Master Masons during the last six months of their minority, *provided* that they are not initiated before reaching full age.

Ques. 16. Is it proper for a brother, posting a candidate, to give him a monitor to learn from?

Answer—There is no law specifically covering the point, but it is better that candidates should be posted without the use of a monitor. They will retain the lesson more firmly, will be freed from the temptation of seeking easy roads and prying into matters beyond them, and will have a better appreciation of the institution if they learn the lectures in the good old way.

Ques. 17. What is the standing of an honorary member of a lodge?

Answer—Honorary membership is purely a courtesy or compliment. It does not confer any of the rights of regular membership.

Ques. 18. Taking advantage of your column on "Questions and Answers on Masonic Law and Usage," I should like very much to put this question: In view of the fact that we have a Supreme Council holding jurisdiction over our Consistories, a Grand Encampment of Knights Templar of the United States of America, holding jurisdiction over our various grand commanderies, the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons, U. S. A., holding jurisdiction over the Grand Chapter of this country, why is it that we do not have a Supreme Grand Lodge, A. F. & A. M., to which questions arising in our various grand jurisdictions which are of national importance may be carried for ultimate adjudication, and whose findings will be final? It is a fact that questions of great importance are passed upon at our grand lodges, that while they may, to a certain extent, be beneficial to the particular grand jurisdiction in which they come up, would be of far greater importance if viewed from the benefits to be derived by universal Masonry?

Answer—The form of this question and the accompanying argument indicate that the brother submitting it has definite views or opinions, which are probably so fixed that it will be difficult if not impossible to change them. We will, however, present a few points to stimulate a little earnest thought on his part and for the careful consideration of those who hold similar views, thereby hoping to pave the way for them to answer their own inquiry. (1) Universal Masonry, or "the universality

of Masonry," as it is more generally phrased, is a widely used, much abused, imperfectly understood and greatly overworked term. It is the favorite expression of every brother who has a new scheme or pet theory or vagary to advance, and is the stock argument of every advocate of license and absolution from the restraints of the ancient landmarks. It has been so persistently sounded that some very excellent brethren, who have not drank overdeep at the Pierian spring have been charmed by its fascinating face and have capitulated without realizing their danger, while others, less scrupulous, have embraced it from selfish or mercenary motives. A little careful thought must convince our questioner and every loyal brother that this term can have no real force, significance or application until after it has been determined what constitutes Masonry and after the genuine has been segregated from the spurious, otherwise this phrase would be invoked to defend the whole brood of irregular and clandestine bodies. The moment discrimination is exercised, as it must be by every earnest seeker for the truth, universality is shorn of the special significance they would fain give it and their *cheval de bataille* loses its strength. Careful study of the subject will bring the conclusion that the real meaning and only legitimate use of the term "universality of Masonry" is, that true Masonry is good for all sorts and conditions of men who honestly accept its landmarks and practice its teachings. (2) All genuine Masonry and all rightful Masonic government centers in lodges or in grand lodges composed of duly chosen representatives from constituent lodges. In each state, country or autonomous territory the legally constituted grand lodge is the sovereign and supreme governing body in ancient craft Masonry, because it is the only body that can express and enforce the best judgment and ultimate will and pleasure of a majority of the lodges constituting it. Grand lodges are not only loth to surrender or barter any part of their sovereignty, but are also properly jealous of any attempt to encroach thereon; nor does it appear that they could if they would waive, abdicate, transfer or delegate this sovereignty, or that they should place themselves in a position where their sovereignty would be in jeopardy from the vote of unthinking or uneducated contemporaries. Every grand lodge is made up of representatives who, as such, become constituent parts of it, having no rights or powers outside its own boundaries and no

power to substitute others to bear responsibilities beyond its own limits. It follows that the only general grand lodge that could be formed would necessarily be composed of representatives from every lodge within the limits of the proposed general jurisdiction, and this involves a proposition so cumbrous and complicated that it falls of its own weight. This conclusion merely recognizes and expresses the broad democratic and Masonic principle of government from the bottom, or government by consent of the governed, and helps to explain why the earnest advocates of a general Grand Lodge, who worked so hard for it in the forties and at other times, failed to accomplish their purpose. (3) If we take the Supreme Council as one of the examples which our brother quotes, we find a government from the top, consisting of a few self-chosen and self-perpetuating rulers, who constitute a hierarchy, oligarchy or aristocracy, rather than a republic or democracy, and stand for principles utterly at variance with the fundamental teachings of true Masonry. But even here his illustration is inconsistent with his theory, because there are two Supreme Councils in the United States, entirely independent of each other. (4) Although nations all profess to be seeking for the reign of universal justice, they have thus far been unable to unite in one world-wide government; although churches all believe in universal righteousness, they cannot join in one common creed; and although czars, emperors and rulers all proclaim the divine right of kings and their devotion to the service of their subjects, they have never been able to agree upon one human sovereign to rule them all; and so we may well be content to let Masonry govern itself through various grand lodges, each sovereign in itself, and independent and untrammeled save by the restraints of the ancient landmarks.

[The brother who refers to the general grand lodge question discussed in a recent issue, and who thinks he finds in the practice of the Grand Lodge of England a precedent for the establishment of general grand lodges is fraternally reminded that the provincial grand lodges under the English constitution do not correspond to our state grand lodges, because they are in a measure subordinate to the Grand Lodge of England, while our state grand lodges are all sovereign bodies. There is no parallel in the two cases. He will readily see that his point so far as it proves anything sustains our contention.]

Ques. 19—A brother who became a member of a lodge several years ago when the by-laws of the lodge provided that after paying dues 25 years a member should become a life member and be exempt from further dues, removed to another state, but continued to pay dues thinking thereby to become a life member. He now finds that although the 25 years have expired the lodge will not give him a certificate of life membership and wishes to know whether he has any redress.

Answer—At its session in 1898 the Grand Lodge legislated all lodge by-laws relating to life membership out of existence, practically ruling that such laws were never in consonance with Masonic principles, but permitting those who had made the requisite payments and taken out certificates previous to that date to retain their standing as life members. The result has been that no one has been able to secure life membership since October, 1898. Frequent attempts have been made to change the law or to get a different construction of it, but these have not succeeded. The questioner should pay dues to date and if he expects to reside in another state apply for a dimit.

Ques. 20—Is it advisable for a Mason to take a petition for degrees in the Blue Lodge from one who is anxious to become a member of our fraternity, but who is known to be morally ineligible, for the purpose of jurisdiction over his case?

Answer—We have known well meaning brethren to advise such a course and to argue strongly in favor of it, but we have never been able to bring ourself to believe in the doctrine. It is the duty of every loyal Mason to guard the craft against the admission of unworthy members, but this should be done, and with proper care can be done, without obliquity or devious methods on our own part. If every Mason will establish for himself the rule to recommend no one to his lodge unless he has such personal knowledge of him as justifies it, it will not be easy for an unworthy man to get three endorsers, and no one will need to recommend an applicant with one hand and strike him with the other. Let us keep out the unworthy and immoral by worthy, direct and moral methods rather than by jesuitical practices.

Ques. 21. What are the ancient landmarks of Free Masonry and how many of them are there?

Answer—The following definition of the ancient landmarks was written by M. Wor. Bro. Robbins and agreed upon by the Masonic Congress held in Chicago in 1893,

viz: "The conclusion of the Congress is that the ancient landmarks are those fundamental principles which characterize Masonry as defined by the charges of a Free Mason, and without which the institution cannot be identified as Masonry, combined with the essentials of the unwritten language by which brethren distinguish each other as Masons." When it comes to putting these principles into definite phraseology and enumerating them our best Masonic scholars differ a little as to what the essentials are, but more regarding their subdivisions and the manner of expressing them. One prominent member of the Masonic Congress formulated over fifty propositions which he regarded as landmarks, while others thought the essentials could all be expressed under a very few heads. The Congress did not attempt to decide these questions. More recently R. Wor. Bro. Ginther has added to the literature on this subject by publishing a pamphlet\* in which he lays down twelve declarations which he considers landmarks and gives his reasons therefor. He tells why he thinks fifteen other propositions which he quotes do not belong to the same class. Familiarity with the charges of a Free Mason and the other contents of the Illinois Blue Book and a thorough knowledge of the ritual constitute the best preparation to enable brethren to judge for themselves what the principles and essentials of Masonry are—and consequently to know what is meant by the word landmarks.

Ques. 22. Is it necessary for the Master to order the petition for a dimit to be laid over to the next stated meeting before granting it?

Answer—The law upon this subject plainly answers this question in the affirmative when it says: "All applications for dimits shall be made in writing, signed by the applicant; be presented to the lodge at a stated communication; shall be read in open lodge, and lie over until the next or some subsequent stated meeting, when, if the applicant's dues are paid to the time when his written application was presented, and there are no formal or written charges against him, a dimit shall be granted and a record made thereof."

Ques. 23. Can the Master extend the time beyond a year for a candidate to take his first degree after being elected, or is it necessary for the lodge to vote upon the question?

\* This pamphlet may be obtained by inclosing 25 cents to W. E. Ginther, state treasurer's office, Springfield, Ill.

Answer—The law, which is as follows, indicates that the lodge should vote upon the question, viz.: “Any candidate failing to appear for initiation within one year after his election, except for good cause, of which the lodge shall be the judge, and for which by a majority vote it may excuse him, must again petition the lodge and be subject to laws governing presentation of first petition. The lodge, for good reasons, may credit a candidate with the fee paid with first petition.”

Ques. 24. Does a brother who acts as Master of a lodge U. D. and who fails to be installed as Master at the constitution of the lodge become a Past Master?

Answer—No one can be a Past Master who has not been regularly installed as Master. The conditions described in this question seldom arise and should never be allowed to occur.

Ques. 25. Who is the legal and proper official to install the officers of a lodge after the annual meeting and election?

Answer—Subject only to the Grand Master, who by virtue of his office is Master of all lodges and has the primary right and authority, it is the prerogative of the retiring Master to install his successor, and it is both his privilege and his duty to exercise this right unless for reasons satisfactory to himself he prefers to waive it. Should the Master-elect proceed to appoint the installing officer and to arrange for the ceremonies without the consent and coöperation of the retiring Master he would not only be acting in a fresh and discourteous manner, but would also show himself lacking in the knowledge necessary to qualify him for his new position.

Ques. 26. Has the Master of a lodge the right to contract to expend the money of a lodge beyond the customary expenditures without first getting the consent of the Wardens or the lodge?

Answer—The terms of the ritual which says that the moneys of the lodge are to be paid out only by the order of the Master and *consent* of the lodge should be strictly adhered to in all cases unless an emergency arises which makes it impossible to get the consent in advance, and in such cases the facts should be reported to the lodge and its ratification obtained at first opportunity. In some lodges the by-laws provide for the expenditure of a limited sum for charity at the discretion of the Master or Trustees without consulting the lodge. The Wardens as such have no more privileges regarding

expenditures than other members unless specially provided for in the by-laws.

Ques. 27. Can a member who has never served as a Warden be appointed as Master of a lodge U. D.?

Answer—He can if the Grand Master so elects. A lodge U. D. is wholly a creation of the Grand Master—or practically a committee or commission to confer degrees—and he may appoint such brethren as he chooses to do this work. The law tells in considerable detail what steps the Grand Master may take to satisfy himself as to the need of a new lodge and the conditions surrounding it, but it does not prescribe the qualifications for the proposed Master except as to knowledge of the ritual.

Ques. 28. A man desirous of petitioning a lodge lacks the necessary funds and makes the proposition that he will deliver three lectures on Masonry for the sum which his degrees are to cost. Suppose the lodge accepts the proposition and votes the sum required as pay for delivering these lectures, and the lodge, in lieu of turning the money over to him, confers the degrees, do you consider this scheme of railroading members into the fraternity just and regular?

Answer—We do not. Such a course would savor so much of sham and deceit as to deserve the name of charlatany. It would be a palpable attempt to evade the plain provisions and intent of the Grand Lodge law which says that “No lodge shall confer any degree or admit to membership until the prescribed fee shall have been paid to the proper officer, nor shall any written or verbal promise to pay the same be received in lieu thereof, nor any portion of the fee remitted in any case, either *directly* or *indirectly*. ” This law was intended to cut off all indirect and crooked ways of admitting the impecunious or avaricious, not that Masonry judges a man on the money basis, but that it treats all alike and expects every one to assume his fair and just share in the burdens and responsibilities of the lodge. Incidentally we may add that the man who would make such a proposition could probably tell all of value that he knows of Masonry in one lecture, and would appear to be quite as well qualified to lecture to bankers on finance as he would be to lecture to members of the fraternity on Masonry.

Ques. 29. Has the Master of a lodge the power to appoint a standing committee not provided for by the by-laws, without the sanction or order of the lodge?

Answer—The law says that the Master has the power “to discharge all the executive functions of his lodge,” and this corresponds to the traditions and the ritual. If he finds it necessary to call upon brethren to assist him in the discharge of these functions and chooses to designate them as a committee, he has the right to do so. If, however, these duties are of a permanent character requiring the service of a *standing committee*, it would be better to provide for such committee in the by-laws.

Ques. 30. Has the Master of a lodge the power to refuse to allow debate on a motion that has been regularly made and seconded?

Answer—It is the prerogative, privilege and duty of the Master to instruct the craft and to direct and govern the business of his lodge. In doing this he may entertain or refuse to entertain motions, and he may restrict or stop debate at his discretion. The only appeal is to the Grand Lodge or Grand Master, who will call him to time if his rulings are shown to be haughty, arbitrary or unmasonic. To compel the Master to entertain a motion simply because it was made and seconded would be to open the way to absurd and frivolous propositions and would in effect transfer the control of the lodge temporarily from the Master to two members on the floor of the lodge.

Ques. 31. What is the meaning of the term “Symbol of the lodge?”

Answer—A symbol is a visible representation of an idea. The symbol, or visible representation, of a lodge generally used in the ceremonies of constituting a new lodge or in dedicating a Masonic building or hall is a rectangular box or solid. In constituting a lodge this parallelopipedon represents the lodge considered as an organization, and in the dedicatory exercises it represents the building, hall or lodge room. Its prescribed shape (which the book of ceremonials gives as about 10x25) is based upon the fact that the form of a lodge is said to be a rectangular parallelogram or “oblong square extending from East to West,” and this in turn grows out of the ancient idea that the world (of which the lodge is supposed to be a representation) was of rectangular form with its greatest extent from East to West.

Ques. 32. Is it contrary to Masonic law to inform a person not a Master Mason of the rejection of an applicant for degrees?

Answer—It is an infraction of Masonic law to disclose

to outsiders any of the business of the lodge and it is also a breach of good manners when such information is liable to be used to injure a person. Any Mason violating the principles and the law of the institution in this particular should be promptly and severely disciplined.

Ques. 33. Has a member of a lodge any right to disclose the color of a ballot cast by himself on the election of a candidate for degrees?

Answer—He has not. The law plainly says that “If any member shall expose the character of his own vote, before, at the time of, or after casting it, or shall attempt to ascertain the character of the vote of any other member he shall be liable to Masonic discipline and punishment.”

Ques. 34. Is it obligatory on the part of a lodge to demand to see documentary or physical evidence of a stranger before appointing a committee to examine him?

Answer—Under ordinary circumstances it is left to the committee to inquire whether the visitor has documentary evidence of his standing and it is also largely at their discretion to decide what evidence of this character he shall produce. After the committee has fully examined him and reported its findings, the ultimate decision whether he shall be admitted rests with the Master, subject always to the right of objection by a member of the lodge.

Ques. 35. Has a visiting brother the right to demand to see the charter of a lodge before submitting to an examination?

Answer—It is entirely within the prerogative of a visitor to decide the conditions upon which he desires to visit a lodge or whether he wants to visit at all, and it is equally within the prerogative or province of the lodge or Master to determine upon what conditions he may be allowed the privilege of visitation. If he demands to see the charter and the lodge refuses to exhibit it to one not known to be a Mason, a deadlock would ensue that could result only in the discomfiture of the proposed visitor. The Masonic Congress that met in Chicago in 1893 decided that “it is the conclusion of the congress that a visitor to a lodge has no right to demand an inspection of the lodge charter.” A visiting brother should satisfy himself that the lodge is a reputable one before presenting himself as the recipient of its courtesies. After he has proved himself to be a regular Mason and been admitted, he will have the same chance to see the charter.

that the members have, and can exercise his wisdom in determining whether the signatures on it are genuine and its provisions regular. If he is himself well informed, the methods pursued in his examination will show him whether he is in legitimate company.

Ques. 36. An eminent authority on Masonry warns all not to solicit the "profane" to become members of the order. What is meant by "profane"?

Answer—The primary meaning of profane is, before, or outside of, the temple. When applied to Masonry, it simply means those outside of the institution, i. e., those who have never been admitted to the fraternity. Every intelligent Mason knows that any solicitation whatever to induce men to apply for initiation is a heinous violation of a fundamental principle of Masonry—a principle so vital as to be regarded as a landmark.

Ques. 37. If a lodge unanimously passes a motion to hold a public installation on a certain date, can the Master change the date or the character of the installation without first obtaining the consent of the lodge?

Answer—The Master is clothed with all the authority necessary to enable him to conserve the best interests of his lodge and in an emergency he might be justified in using his discretion, even to the extent described in this question, subject always to review by the Grand Lodge or Grand Master. What the Master has the power to do, and what it would be wise, politic or reasonable for him to do, might be two very different propositions. In a matter so directly related to the peace, harmony and prosperity of the lodge the Master should, under all ordinary circumstances, be reasonably influenced by the wishes of the brethren of his lodge.

Ques. 38. Is the lodge responsible for the acts of its Master in cases of violations of Grand Lodge laws?

Answer—if the infraction of law is solely the act of the Master, without participation by the lodge, the Master alone will be held to account when the case goes before the proper tribunal.

Ques. 39. If none but Master Masons can receive the degrees conferred in the Chapter, Commandery and Consistory, why is it that sitting with one in those bodies does not justify vouching for him in the lodge?

Answer—The legal information necessary to enable one Mason to vouch for another is purely Masonic knowledge, that cannot be acquired by hearsay evidence. The proof must come from those who are "known to be," not from

those who are "heard to be" Masons. Ancient Craft Masonry—the Masonry of the lodge—knows only the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason. Whatever of Masonry there may be before, after, below, above, beyond or outside of these three degrees has no place or standing in the Lodge. The only tests that can be applied are such as are known and recognized by all Master Masons alike, within the confines of craft Masonry, and regardless of affiliations with one or a hundred other and exterior organizations. The high-riters claiming the Masonic name stand upon the same plane in this particular with the members of societies of other names. In other words, knowledge of craft Masonry conveyed by examination or avouchment to a Master Mason as such (and not as a high-riter or other joiner) is the only passport to admission into a regular lodge of Masons.

Ques. 40. Is there any Masonic law which prescribes the physical qualifications which candidates for the degrees of Masonry must possess; if so, what is the penalty for violating it, and why is such a law perpetuated since Masonry has laid aside its operative features and become speculative?

Answer—This is a pretty large question and a complete answer would require more space and greater ability than we have at command. Although free-masonry has laid aside the purely practical work of the operative craftsman, it is still considered under the two denominations of operative and speculative. It is one of the provinces of the speculative part to trace out and elucidate the connection between the two, to show wherein the symbolisms and emblems of one hark back to and are founded upon the practical achievements of the other and to illustrate the need of physical completeness in man as a basis for that moral and spiritual perfection which it is the aim of Masonry to promote. This gives a hint why one of the fundamental laws of Masonry demands that all candidates for Masonic initiation must possess certain physical qualifications and that these shall be such as to enable him to conform literally to what the several degrees require of him; that is, to meet such physical tests as the ceremonies of initiation and the methods of recognition make necessary. This feature is so important that it constitutes a landmark or immovable and irrevocable law of the institution, which neither the Grand Master nor Grand Lodge can annul or set

aside, and which every Master Mason is obligated to support and obey. There is no possibility of modifying this feature of the ancient institution until a very radical and fundamental change takes place and until the old organization shall be transformed and rebuilt from a new foundation and with new principles, thus surrendering its identity. As every Mason is equally interested in and equally under responsibility and obligation to sustain and obey this basic law of the institution, it follows that all have transgressed when by their ballots they have participated in its violation; hence when a lodge has knowingly or through culpable negligence accepted a candidate physically disqualified, every member of the lodge is blameworthy in proportion to his opportunity for knowing the facts, and all participating in his election are subject to discipline, the lodge itself being liable to lose its charter.

Ques. 41. Is it contrary to the Grand Lodge laws for a member to use a key or cipher to learn the work?

Answer—It is. In 1905 the Grand Master again announced the truism that “the use of keys or ciphers is a violation of Masonic obligations and ground for discipline.” The committee on jurisprudence approved the decision and the Grand Lodge adopted the report, thus making it authoritative. But no formal law upon this subject is needed to make the use of keys or ciphers a violation of every Mason’s obligation, and to make every intelligent, thoughtful and sensitive offender realize that in using these fraudulent devices he is not only subjecting himself to discipline, but is also doing violence to his *own conscience*—the most pitiable condition a man can be in.

Ques. 42. After witnessing the public installation of an officer of a lodge, can a member vouch for said officer to another lodge?

Answer—The information which one gets by means of any *public ceremony* of a Masonic character is not such as to justify him in vouching for the participants.

Ques. 43. Why is a lodge conferring the three degrees of Ancient Craft Masonry called the blue lodge?

Answer—The symbolism which makes of the lodge a miniature world, having the blue vault of Heaven for a covering, naturally suggests for it the color of the sky. Blue has long been considered as the color typifying friendship, benevolence and brotherly love—virtues inculcated by the world-wide teachings of Masonry. For

these reasons blue is assigned to the lodge when there is any call for a distinctive color. Under all ordinary circumstances, however, it is as unnecessary, superfluous and priggish to refer to the lodge as the "blue lodge," as it would be to call a Mason a "lodge Mason" or a "blue Mason."

Ques. 46. Would it be proper for a member of a lodge to file an objection with the Master to smoking in the lodge hall during the sessions of the lodge?

Answer—We think every member has the right to object in a dignified manner to any conduct or practice in the lodge room that is offensive to him or that renders his stay uncomfortable or impossible. Whether his protest or objection shall be heeded might depend upon the facts and circumstances in the particular instance complained of, and upon the will and pleasure of the Master or the lodge, and these, in turn, would be subject to review by the Grand Master or Grand Lodge. In the matter herein questioned we are of the opinion that the Master has the right to absolutely prohibit smoking in the lodge room, and we believe that the honor, dignity, decorum and good name of Masonry make it his duty to exercise this right in a judicious but entirely firm manner, and that he would be sustained in its exercise by the highest Masonic authorities as well as by the better moral sentiment of the craft generally.

Ques. 47. A man is elected to receive the degrees in a lodge. Before he is initiated an objection is filed which holds good for one year. At the expiration of the year can the degrees be conferred without any further action by the lodge?

Answer—After the expiration of a year from the time the objection is made and recorded, if the objection is not renewed, the candidate may be initiated without any further action by the lodge. We are of the opinion, however, that the Master might, with propriety and in the interests of that open fairness which should characterize all Masonic proceedings, give notice that the requisite time having expired, the candidate would be initiated at a specified future date. But there is no law requiring such notice.

Ques. 48. Has a Mason the right to propound Masonic interrogatories to one claiming to be a Mason, for the purpose of satisfying himself of the genuineness of the claim?

Answer—We think a Mason may proceed by judicious and proper Masonic methods to satisfy himself whether a claimant for Masonic recognition is entitled to receive it from him as an individual Mason, but that this right does not go to the extent of justifying him in vouching for the claimant in lodge or to other brethren, unless the Master is fully informed of the circumstances and accepts and ratifies the examination. In other words, the Master has the right to judge as to whether a member is competent to act the part of a committeeman.

Ques. 49. What is the duty of a lodge and what course should it pursue when asked to recommend the formation of a lodge U. D.

Answer—One of the most important powers of the Grand Master is that of establishing lodges U. D., for to them is given the authority to make Masons (the highest function known to Masonry) and the privilege of growing into constituent lodges and becoming parts of the governing body. In determining whether it is wise to exercise this prerogative, in any given case, the Grand Master is entitled to the assistance of three constituent lodges, whose duty it is to give him all the information necessary to enable him to act with complete knowledge of the situation. These lodges should act independently and separately and each should make a thorough investigation. They should no more assume that the statements made in the petition need no corroboration than we should take for granted the status of a visitor who applies for admission. When an application comes before a lodge to recommend the formation of a new lodge, the Master should cause forms 8 and 9 of the appendix to the Blue Book to be read in full, so that all the brethren may understand what they are asked to certify to, and then a competent committee should be appointed to investigate thoroughly all the facts in the case. The committee should ascertain whether the brethren signing the petition are Master Masons in good standing and have the prosperity of the craft at heart, rather than selfish motives or a desire for office; whether they are anxious to promote and diffuse the genuine principles of Freemasonry and have good prospects of adequate unsolicited support from new material; whether they have secured suitable quarters; whether any other lodge (not alone the recommending lodge or lodges) will be materially injured by the formation of the new lodge and whether the lodge may properly certify to the truth of all the statements

made in the application. The committee has four weeks in which to gather this information and any other facts that may seem to them germane, and when they have fully reported to the lodge the brethren will be prepared to vote intelligently and the verdict of the lodge will be of great value to the Grand Master in deciding the question.

Ques. 50. When a member is cognizant of a violation of Grand Lodge laws and the Master refuses to take action in the case, should the matter be placed before the Grand Master or the District Deputy Grand Master?

Answer—Unless the matter is of unusual gravity, it would probably be better to refer it first to the District Deputy Grand Master, especially in cases when a personal interview can be had with him and would not be practicable with the Grand Master.

Ques. 51. Should a candidate be urged to take his degrees after his petition has been balloted upon and he has been elected, or should it be left to his discretion?

Answer—After a candidate has been elected, he should be notified of the fact and he should also be informed when to come to the lodge for initiation. If he is unable to appear at the appointed time, he should communicate that fact to the Secretary, who should again inform him when to present himself. He should not be urged or importuned to take any degree, but every step should be of his own free will and accord.

Ques. 52. Does a candidate who has all the degrees conferred upon him, but has failed to receive the last lecture and sign the by-laws of the lodge, become a member of the lodge conferring the degrees?

Answer—Every petition contemplates membership in the lodge, and the candidate is entitled to receive the degrees in full and to have an opportunity to sign the by-laws. The last lecture is an important, valuable and instructive part of the ceremony, but under some circumstances might not be considered as absolutely indispensable. The failure to give it, however, should not be charged against the candidate, nor deprive him of his rights. The law says that the by-laws should always be present when candidates are raised, and a refusal to sign them deprives the petitioner of the rights of membership, but adds that if he exercises the privileges of membership he cannot thereafter deny the responsibilities thereof, and he would then be subject to discipline for refusing to sign the by-laws.

Ques. 53. Is there any Masonic law or regulation that prevents a man of illegitimate birth from becoming a Mason?

Answer—The by-laws of the Grand Lodge of Illinois do not answer this question and eminent Masons differ in opinion as to whether the Ancient Charges—the fundamental law of Masonry—cover the point. Some grand jurisdictions have answered the question in the affirmative and others in the negative. The difference arises from the different interpretations placed upon the phrase, “descended of honest parents,” as used in the Ancient Charges. If, as some contend, these words mean that bastards are ineligible (and certain early editions of the Ancient Charges so phrased it), then those of illegitimate birth are excluded, as definitely as are those who possess congenital physical deficiencies; the individual being no more responsible in one case than in the other. If, however, the word “honest” is here used in its modern sense, instead of in its older meaning of chaste or virtuous, then there is no fundamental law excluding those who are so unfortunate as to bear the bar-sinister. In the absence of any definite law on the subject members of lodges in Illinois are at liberty to decide the question for themselves.

Ques. 54. What is meant by the word “clandestine” as applied to a Mason or a lodge?

Answer—The primary and general meaning of the word clandestine is “conducted with secrecy.” Inasmuch as all strictly Masonic matters are conducted with a degree of secrecy, it follows that unless all Masonry is clandestine the word must have a somewhat exceptional or special meaning when used Masonically. What, then, is the Masonic use of the term? Some assistance in answering this question may be found in the installation ceremony wherein the Master admits that “no countenance shall be given to any irregular lodge or to any person clandestinely initiated therein.” This makes irregular and clandestine practically synonymous from the Masonic standpoint and justifies the conclusion that the definition of irregular, viz.: “not conforming to general law, method or usage,” is the Masonic meaning of clandestine; hence any Mason or lodge not conforming to the general law, method or usage of Masonry is clandestine.

Ques. 55. Is an Entered Apprentice or a Fellow

Craft entitled to attend a Masonic funeral as a member of the craft?

Answer—Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts are not entitled to Masonic burial, nor are they permitted to participate as Masons in funeral obsequies. (See Book of Ceremonials, page 84.)

Ques. 56. Is it according to Masonic law for a Secretary to insert in the minutes and read the same at next meeting, the name of a brother who objects to the form of a bill presented to the lodge and upon whose motion the bill was changed before being passed.

Answer—The form and fullness of the minutes of a meeting; that is, what things are “proper to be written,” are largely matters of taste and judgment on the part of the Secretary under the supervision and direction of the Master. The law does not prescribe exact details to fit every case. Motions adopted and bills allowed are among the necessary parts of the record, and it is sometimes of interest to tell who presents a matter or moves an amendment, but ordinarily it is not necessary or proper to record such trifling details. It would be an unnecessary lumbering of the minutes to give the name of every brother who might suggest minor corrections in the minutes about business items or make unimportant motions.

Ques. 57. Is it a fact, as claimed by some, that the chapter degrees were at one time a part of the first three degrees?

Answer—In their early history what are now known as chapter degrees were regarded as addenda to or complementary of the craft degrees—the Mark Master’s degree being supplementary to and rounding out the Fellow Craft’s degree, the Past and Most Excellent Master’s degrees standing for official honors or as crowning rewards for services rendered, and the Royal Arch degree completing some necessary explanations of the Master Mason’s degree. These ranks, as then given, were conferred in lodges. About the middle of the eighteenth century these degrees were segregated from the craft degrees, chapters were established and the ceremonies elaborated. Lodges, however, in many cases, continued to confer these grades, and it was not until about the beginning of the nineteenth century that the practice was entirely or generally discontinued. A remnant of the old custom still survives in some grand jurisdictions where a so-called Past Master’s degree (fitly described by one of our

Past Grand Masters as "that ancient impostor") is enacted in lodges as a preliminary to installation. [It is not necessary for a brother to be a chapter Mason in order to visit a lodge in England.]

Ques. 58. Please state the proper method of "cleansing," a clandestine Mason.

Answer—This brother no doubt refers to the process commonly called "healing." We cannot do better in reply than to quote from the report of the Jurisprudence Committee adopted by the Grand Lodge in 1894, when it had under consideration the application of one who had received some degrees in an irregular lodge, to be healed, viz.: "The Masons of Illinois know little of the healing art in Masonry, and practice it less, mainly because they 'don't have to.' But in the case under consideration your committee is of the opinion there is nothing to heal, since the applicant, neither in part or as a whole, is a Mason. Your committee does not doubt his worthiness to become one, but the only way that honor can be bestowed is for the gentleman to make application to a regular lodge having jurisdiction, and if it shall be willing to receive him, he may become a Mason by being initiated, passed and raised in accordance with the laws, rules and regulations of Masonry. Your committee knows of no other way for a man to gain admission into the Masonic fraternity, and so reports."

Ques. 59. When one holding a dimitt desires to affiliate with a lodge, and there is no one to vouch for him, what is the proper procedure?

Answer—A brother holding a dimitt and desiring to affiliate, should visit the lodge before applying for membership. This would not only enable him to judge whether he wishes to become a member of that lodge, but would also settle the question of avouchment. Until he can prove himself to be a Mason by regular Masonic tests, he should not be permitted to petition for membership. The fee for affiliation varies in Chicago lodges from \$5 to \$25. Each lodge decides that matter for itself.

Ques. 60. In case the Master orders the ballot to be respread, must the order be made and carried into effect immediately, or can there be a lapse of time between ballots?

Answer—There should be no delay or postponement. The law plainly provides that "when a ballot is in progress, it shall not be suspended or postponed." The only

reason for permitting a second trial of the ballot is that some one may have made a mistake which he might wish to correct. This does not call for or justify any delay, nor would it be proper to permit any action which would give opportunity for any attempt to influence the result.

Ques. 61. An aspirant for Masonic degrees was balloted upon and accepted about ten years ago by a lodge under the British Columbia (Victoria) jurisdiction. Immediately after he was compelled to move to Chicago. He desires to affiliate with a local lodge. What is his status under the circumstances, and what should be his mode of procedure?

Answer—We understand from the question that the gentleman removed from British Columbia after being elected and before being initiated, and that he is now a resident here and desires to take the degrees in Chicago. He should petition a lodge in the regular way, giving the facts of former petition. Inasmuch as it is not generally held that a lodge by favorable ballot gains permanent jurisdiction over a petitioner who removes from the jurisdiction, there is no law to prevent acting upon his petition, but the lodge, as a matter of safety, should verify his statements, and as a matter of courtesy and inter-jurisdictional comity should ascertain whether the lodge in British Columbia claims any jurisdiction in the case.

Ques. 62. Can a petition for degrees be acted on by a lodge in Illinois from one who has previously petitioned and been elected, but failed to get the degrees, in a jurisdiction that has received only “qualified recognition” by the Grand Lodge, without first obtaining consent of the lodge first receiving the petition?

Answer—This question is fully answered in the preceding, except as to the condition of “qualified recognition.” In a previous answer (No. 9) we showed that the unique status of “qualified recognition” as now practically defined in Illinois, means that each lodge takes the responsibility of deciding for itself whether it will or will not recognize lodges in this class of jurisdictions. Following this rule, the conclusion logically is that a lodge may ignore jurisdictions in the “qualified” list entirely if it chooses, or may grant them all the courtesies extended to regular jurisdictions.

Ques. 63. Is it right and proper for one lodge to request another to confer the first degree on a candidate?

Answer—The laws and usages in Illinois permit one lodge to confer any or all of the degrees for another as

a matter of courtesy, at the request and by the consent of the respective lodges. There should always be a definite understanding in advance as to the amount of the fees and which lodge shall have the money. In case of the first degree especial care should be exercised, not only in the identification of the candidate, but also to guard against depriving any brother of his right of objection. These considerations are so important as to make it doubtful (even when the law does not forbid it) whether a lodge should ever request another to confer the first degree.

Ques. 64. An applicant for degrees was rejected. Is it necessary for him to wait one year from date of rejection, or can he re-petition one year from the date when his petition was received?

Answer—The time is reckoned from the date of rejection.

Ques. 65. An applicant for degrees was rejected. He petitioned another lodge one year later. A waiver of jurisdiction was asked for and refused. Can his petition for degrees be received and acted upon by the lodge he first petitioned without the lapse of another year's time?

Answer—if he has continued to reside within the jurisdiction of the first lodge, he can re-petition that lodge at any time after the lapse of one year from the time of rejection, but he should state in his petition all the facts as to his previous efforts to gain admission.

Ques. 66. A man petitions for degrees and is elected. Objection is made to his initiation, which expires in one year if not renewed. The lodge informs him of the objection, but fails to notify him of its expiration or to communicate with him for several years. Is it necessary for him to re-petition, or can the lodge, upon his application, proceed to confer the degrees without further action, provided the objection is not renewed?

Answer—The candidate cannot justly be held as delinquent unless he has been informed that the way is clear, and therefore he should receive the degrees without further action by the lodge if he asks for them within a year after he knows that the objection has ceased to be operative. If, however, he delays more than one year after he receives this information before applying for initiation, the Master should ask the lodge whether it will excuse him for the delinquency before requiring him to re-petition.

Ques. 67. A number of Masons desiring to form a new lodge, ask the recommendation of three lodges. Two of the lodges are willing, but one lodge refuses. Can consent be asked of other lodges having concurrent jurisdiction, or does the refusal operate as an objection?

Answer—We think the refusal of one lodge to recommend should stay proceedings till the Grand Master can be informed of the facts and his advice be obtained. In granting dispensations for new lodges the responsibility rests with the Grand Master after three lodges are supposed to have furnished him the information necessary to enable him to exercise this discretion wisely. In the country, where the law requires that the three nearest lodges must be consulted, if one refuses, further progress is barred. In cities, where concurrent jurisdiction exists, the applicants select three lodges to pass upon their petition. If one of these declines to recommend, the Grand Master should be informed of the fact, and this refusal should be considered sufficient to put him on his guard and to stay further proceedings till he can investigate the reasons for objection and grant or refuse permission to make further efforts by asking other lodges. The law does not attempt to determine whether more lodges are or are not desirable; it simply provides the machinery through which the Grand Master may arrive at the pros and cons and be able to decide what the best interests of Masonry demand. If a lodge refuses to recommend, it is fair to assume that it has good reasons for doing so.

Ques. 68. A man resided in a town having one lodge, which had exclusive jurisdiction. He moved into the jurisdiction of another lodge, but before acquiring a residence there he petitioned the lodge in his former home, was elected and initiated. Did the lodge receiving his petition violate the law?

Answer—The lodge certainly did violate the law, because it received a petition from one not residing in its jurisdiction. The man had lost his Masonic residence in one jurisdiction by removing from it, but had not acquired a petitioner's residence in another. In moving from one jurisdiction to another in Illinois a man loses his right to petition any Masonic lodge for six months. If he moves into Illinois from another state, he loses this right for one year.

Ques. 69. Do the Scottish rite bodies make any at-

tempt to confer the three craft degrees in any part of the United States?

Answer—We do not know of any state in the union where the Scottish rite bodies are conferring the degree of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason.

Ques. 70. Can a Fellow Craft Mason visit a lodge other than the one conferring the degrees on him, while at work on that degree?

Answer—Masons may visit other lodges than their own by the courtesy of the visited lodge, and the consent of the members present. This courtesy may be and often is extended to Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts of other lodges, who are properly vouched for, when the lodge is working on a degree attained by the visitor.

Ques. 71. Has the Grand Lodge of Illinois taken any action of late relating to Masonic Life Insurance, and what is the attitude of the Grand Lodge toward these institutions?

Answer—The By-Laws of the Grand Lodge of Illinois provide that “no Mason shall give the Masonic name to any business concern, association, or calling organized or prosecuted for profit or for a livelihood. No Mason shall use or be a party to the using of the Masonic name as a part of the style and title or designation of any business firm, concern, company, association, or enterprise, unless such business shall be the printing or publishing of Masonic books, papers, or periodicals, or the manufacture and sale of Masonic supplies.” The Grand Lodge decided in 1905 that to name a corporation not organized for profit a “Masonic Benevolent Association” is a violation of this law. It will thus be seen that the Grand Lodge is unequivocally opposed to the use of the Masonic name to promote business enterprises, even when organized under the guise of benevolence.

Ques. 72. Under what circumstances may a second trial of the ballot be had, and is it ever in order to take the ballot on a candidate more than twice?

Answer—The law says: “If only *one* negative vote appears, the Master may (it does not say must) order a second trial of the ballot, the result of which shall in all cases be final and conclusive, and shall be then and there so declared by the Master.” This clearly shows that no more than two trials of the ballot can be had; that the second trial can be made only in cases where no more than one negative vote appears; that even in case of

only one negative vote the second trial is optional with the Master, and that no motion or vote by the lodge on the subject of taking another ballot is in order. There can be no delay or postponement after the ballot is in progress, and the declaration of the result by the Master must be made at once and is conclusive. A method for correcting the ballot that rejected a candidate by mistake or under misapprehension is provided for in a separate section, which requires an announcement in open lodge by those making the mistake and notice to all members who were present when the rejection occurred.

Ques. 73. In Masonry, what is meant by the term "supplanting a brother"?

Answer—We do not know that the "supplant," when used Masonically, has any other than its usual meaning. The dictionaries say that it means to remove by stratagem, supersede, undermine, take the place of, or to overthrow by force in order to get a substitute for. Masonry condemns all sly, underhand, irregular, dishonest, concealed or illegitimate methods, and deprecates all acts by which unfair advantage is sought over another. It does not shut out open, fair and honest competition among brethren in business, nor prevent them from seeking political or other preferment in legitimate ways. Any attempt to use Masonry as a means for gaining personal advantage over a brother, or of securing office is contrary to the principles and teachings of the institution. Any man who tries to make his connection with the fraternity promote selfish ends or political ambitions prostitutes the institution and proves himself unworthy of confidence, either as a Mason or office holder.

Ques. 74. A man petitions for degrees and the committee reports favorably, with the exception that the candidate does not understand the English language fully. Is it necessary to ballot on petition, or can applicant withdraw his petition until later, or what would be the proper disposition of the case?

Answer—The committee should report either favorable or unfavorable, without qualification, and the ballot must be taken in either case, because if the lodge has jurisdiction the petition cannot be withdrawn after being referred to committee. If the petitioner knows enough of the English language to comprehend what is said to him and to understand the obligations he assumes, and if he is otherwise qualified, there need be no hesitation about initiating him. It would then be up to the posting

committee and the candidate to impart and acquire enough English to enable him to show suitable proficiency before advancing.

**Ques. 75.** Is it legal for a Masonic lodge to start a death benefit fund inside of the lodge and let the members who wish join in the same? Would this in any way conflict with the rules of the Grand Lodge?

**Answer**—Such an organization should not be started by any formal action of the lodge as a body, but if members of the lodge individually contribute voluntarily to such a fund or club, there is no rule or regulation to prevent it. The money should be kept entirely separate and distinct from the lodge funds, and the lodge records should not contain any reference to it. The members of the lodge, individually, and not the lodge, are the ones interested and benefited.

**Ques. 76.** Is it legal for a lodge to enact a by-law providing for the election of a financial committee, relief committee, or general purpose committee, and are not lodge by-laws making the Master and Wardens a financial committee in conflict with the Grand Lodge by-laws?

**Answer**—Masonic tradition, law and usage, as well as the constitutional structure of Masonry, make the Master the executive officer of the lodge. The law expressly provides that he has the power to appoint all committees, and he is ex-officio the chairman thereof. The Wardens by virtue of their office possess the inherent right to succession to these privileges and are so related to the Master as to form with him the controlling executive power, when this is not directly exercised by the lodge itself. The law plainly recognizes this relation in providing that the Master and Wardens are the only members qualified to be designated as trustees. It would be equally in accordance with Masonic principles and law, as well as with the ancient traditions of the craft, to consider them as the only financial, executive and general purpose committee of the lodge. No legislation or by-law of the lodge is necessary to enable their so acting. All attempts to supersede these officers in the management of the finances and general affairs of the lodge (not specifically acted upon by the lodge) are modern inventions, contrary to the spirit, tradition and customs of our ancient institution.

**Ques. 77.** Does the Grand Lodge of Illinois recognize the society known as the "True Kindred"?

Answer—The Grand Lodge of Illinois, Masonically and officially, recognizes no other fraternal organization, association or society than that of Ancient Craft Masonry, and no other degrees than those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason.

Ques. 78. Is it a fact that in Scotland a man may petition any Masonic lodge for the degrees; or, in other words, that for petitioners there is in that country no law of vicinage?

Answer—We believe that such is the case, and that in Scotland an applicant for degree may send his petition into any lodge without reference to its proximity to his place of residence; nor is he required to be a bona fide resident for any fixed length of time. On this subject the able Editor of the Masonic Voice Review justly remarks that “occasionally an American (native or naturalized) who could not gain admission to a Masonic lodge in the place where he lives takes advantage of a visit to Scotland to receive the degrees while there. It is a discredit to the Grand Lodge of Scotland that this is true.”

Ques. 79. Does the Master of a lodge under dispensation, who has been appointed by the Grand Master, continue to act as Master after the lodge has been constituted?

Answer—Except in very unusual cases or where satisfactory reasons for a change can be shown, the same Master and Wardens are named in the charter granted to a new lodge that served in these stations when the lodge was under dispensation, and they are installed when the lodge is constituted. These officers serve until the first annual meeting or regular time fixed in the by-laws for lodge election, and as a rule are then elected and installed for a full year additional.

Ques. 80. In case of death of a non-affiliated Mason is it the duty of the lodge in whose jurisdiction he resided before death to conduct the funeral services, or is it a courtesy that may be extended at the option of the lodge?

Answer—if the deceased had expressed a wish for Masonic interment, if his family request it, or if there is no other provision for proper burial, the lodge might with entire propriety perform the ceremonies. In a general way, however, these ceremonies are extended to a non-affiliate as a matter of courtesy only, optional with the lodge.

Ques. 81. Has a Master Mason's lodge, wearing

Masonic clothing and bearing the usual paraphernalia, any right to attend a funeral where the services are conducted exclusively by the Knights Templar, and is it illegal for a Master Mason's lodge to attend a funeral as a lodge when it takes no part in the services and the ceremonies are conducted by those not members of the institution?

Answer—A Master Mason's lodge as a lodge has no right to appear in public to assist in making a show or swelling a procession, and it is illegal for a lodge as such to take part in a funeral unless the lodge has charge of the service and performs the ceremony.

Ques 82. Has a lodge the power to place a limitation on the reinstatement of a member suspended for non-payment of dues? In other words, can the lodge reinstate him to good standing in the fraternity only, leaving him unaffiliated?

Answer—The Grand Lodge by-laws provide that “Any Mason indefinitely suspended for non-payment of dues or other cause may ask for reinstatement at any time, and upon seeking reinstatement shall petition in writing to the lodges having jurisdiction. The petition shall lie over for action till the next stated meeting, when, on payment or remission of dues, if any, and upon a favorable ballot of two-thirds of the members present at a stated communication, the petitioner may be restored to membership or to good standing in the fraternity only, leaving him non-affiliated.”

Ques. 83. Can an applicant for dimit withdraw the application before the dimit is granted?

Answer—The law says that “An applicant for dimission may withdraw his application at any moment before the announcement that the dimit is granted has been made.”

Ques. 84. When a lodge confers a degree for another, has the lodge doing the work a right to the fees?

Answer—In the absence of any agreement on the subject it would seem to be proper to let the lodge doing the work have the fee, on the basis that the “laborer is worthy of his hire,” but to avoid any question or fiction a definite understanding as to the amount and ownership of the fee should always be had before the work is done.

Ques. 85. A member of a lodge has knowledge that a member of another lodge is guilty of a Masonic

offense. Can he prefer charges, and if not, what is the proper course to pursue?

Answer—As the accused might object to allowing the accuser to visit his lodge, the complaint should be presented in writing to the lodge of which the accused is a member. If the matter is of a nature to call for a trial, the Master should entertain a motion that the Junior Warden be instructed to prefer formal charges against the accused. If the Master or lodge refuses to take action, the complainant should place the case before the District Deputy Grand Master or the Grand Master. But if the lodge votes to place the accused on trial, the Junior Warden should bring charges in proper form, after getting full information from the accuser, and the trial should be so conducted as to bring out all the facts.

Ques. 86. Two members of an investigating committee reported favorably. The other asked for further time. The Master failed to understand the one member and ordered the ballot to be taken. The ballot was started and then interrupted by the member who had not made his final report. What was the proper action for the Master to take in the matter?

Answer—As soon as the Master learned that a mistake had been made, he should have ordered a halt and declared all proceedings under the partially taken ballot void. The balloting necessarily would go over to a subsequent stated meeting, and until "the lodge is in possession of the result of the investigation of its own committee."

Ques. 87. A ballot on a candidate was spread and found dark. One member arose and stated that he had voted a black ball by mistake. The ballot was re-spread and only one black ball appeared. Can the Master exercise his prerogative and order still another ballot?

Answer—if no member left the lodge room after the first trial of the ballot, the Master could, in view of the declaration of mistake that was made, and before proceeding further, declare the first trial void, and consider the subsequent proceedings as a ballot *de novo*—entirely separate and distinct from the previous action—and in that case two trials might be permitted under the provision of the law if only one black ball was cast: It should be borne in mind, however, that the Master has discretion in the matter—that is, that he may (the law does not say *must*) order a second trial of the ballot when only one negative vote appears.

Ques. 88. Has a lodge any right to alter, amend or expunge any part of its minutes at a subsequent meeting when as a matter of fact the minutes are correct?

Answer—If the minutes contain only what is proper to be written, and if they properly express what was actually done, they should stand and be approved, and when approved the law says they shall not be altered or expunged. If the lodge changes its views and wishes to take different action, a motion to rescind its former action should be made (unless the expressed will of the lodge has already been carried out), and if this motion is carried the minutes should show the facts. The records would then disclose the entire proceedings.

Question 89. Wherein does the "Emeritus Grand Lecturer" differ from the Grand Lecturer?

Answer—The law does not provide for or recognize any such grade as "Emeritus Grand Lecturer." This is a class created by the friendly fraternal feeling of the Board of Grand Examiners, and it has been given a little kindly prominence in the list of worthies by the publishers of Masonic papers. It is made up of such former members of the Board of Grand Examiners as have kept up an active interest in the work and who are commissioned as Grand Lecturers by the Grand Master on recommendation of the Grand Examiners in recognition of their previous service.

Ques. 90. A lodge receives a petition which takes the usual course; when it reaches the ballot the petitioner is blackballed. Subsequently it is discovered that the petitioner did not and does not reside within the jurisdiction of the lodge rejecting him. Can the lodge in whose jurisdiction he does reside receive the petition in less than one year after the time he petitioned the other lodge?

Answer—Rejection by a lodge *not having jurisdiction* does not affect the status of the candidate or the right to petition a lodge that has jurisdiction. But he should tell the facts, in order to avoid any appearance of concealment. The conditions described in this question could exist only in consequence of highly culpable carelessness and negligence on the part of those who recommended and investigated the candidate.

Ques. 91. When an appointive officer resigns, after having been installed into office, is it necessary for the resignation to be acted on by the lodge, or can the Master accept the same, and has the Master of a lodge the

power to accept the resignation of an elective officer of the lodge, or must the resignation go before the lodge for action?

Answer—The Master and Wardens cannot resign or dimit. Other *elective* officers may resign and their resignations are acted upon by the *lodge*. Their places can be permanently filled only by an election held by authority of a dispensation granted by the Grand Master. “The resignation of *appointive* officers may, for good reasons, be received, and the vacancies filled by the Master.”

Ques. 92. How can smoking be banished from the lodge room?

Answer—By the simple process of inspiring the Master with sufficient stamina to prohibit it. Every member has the right to expect his lodge meeting place to be kept free from unnecessary pollution, and no brother has the right to vitiate the atmosphere of the lodge room and render the stay of others unpleasant or impossible by indulging himself in an acquired and noxious habit which has no foundation in natural privileges. All reasonable brethren admit this, and almost without exception would sustain the Master who has the moral courage to rigidly exclude smoking from the lodge room. It is up to the Master.

Ques. 93. If a member attends a lodge while at work on the Fellow Craft’s degree, and becomes acquainted with a brother, can he vouch for the new acquaintance as a Master Mason?

Answer—He cannot, if the above is all the information he has as to his Masonic standing. The ability to vouch for each other, which brethren acquire by being in lodge together, does not extend beyond the degree upon which the lodge is open when they are sitting together therein. That is, in the case mentioned in this question, the brethren could thereafter vouch for each other as Fellow Crafts, but not as Master Masons.

Ques. 94. Can a dimitted Mason retain honorary membership in a lodge?

Answer—Honorary membership is a purely complimentary title or status, which does “not confer any of the rights of regular membership,” and consequently does not add to what might be termed the vested rights of Masonry. Inasmuch as this title can be conferred only upon a “Master Mason who is a member in good standing of some regular lodge,” we are of the opinion

that the honorary membership lapses when the brother ceases to be a regular member, whether the termination of membership comes by his own voluntary withdrawal or through discipline. When the foundation is withdrawn the structure falls.

Ques. 95. Can a Master Mason who has been buried with Masonic rites, and whose remains are taken up and removed to his home one year afterward, receive Masonic burial again by his own lodge at the request of his relatives?

Answer—The Masonic burial service is based upon the idea that the ceremonies are final and conclusive, and such as do not allow of repetition in the case of the same brother. From these considerations, and for sanitary reasons, we are of the opinion that the action proposed in this question should not be permitted.

Ques. 96. What action is necessary for a lodge to take on a petition that was rejected, several black balls appearing, so that the ballot can be spread again? If a man petitioned and was rejected and petitions the second time, should this fact appear on the second petition? If Masonic law covers the first question I would be pleased if you would give the reference, so that it could be read in open lodge to settle the point.

Answer—We think that every point in the above is clearly, definitely and fully covered by section 7, article 14, and sections 1, 3 and 5, article 15, part 2, Grand Lodge by-laws, together with the authorized form of petition for degrees found on page 146 of the Blue Book.

Ques. 97. A motion is made in a lodge upon a business proposition which there is every reason to believe a majority of the members present are in favor of, but which the Master is opposed to and consequently he refuses to entertain it. Can the right of the members to vote upon the management of the lodge business be thus arbitrarily set aside by the Master without redress, and if not, what is the proper course for them to pursue?

Answer—Tradition, usage and law rightfully give the Master of a Masonic lodge extraordinary powers and prerogatives and definitely provide that he shall permit no appeal from his decisions to be made to the lodge. He has wide discretion and can exercise it arbitrarily if he chooses, subject only to review through an appeal to the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge. In view of this, brethren who wish to carry propositions which the Master opposes should be very careful to bring them

forward in a form so courteous, reasonable and business like that they will command the support of the Grand Master in case appeal to him becomes necessary. If this is done in the right spirit and the Master proves haughty or unreasonable, the brethren should not hesitate to give the Grand Master the facts and provide him with such information as will enable him to administer a little wholesome clipping of wings.

Ques. 98. Should members of investigating committees make their reports direct to the Master or may they be made to the Secretary, and should the reports be made verbally or otherwise?

Answer—The law upon this subject is very clear and mandatory and its provisions should be carefully studied and implicitly obeyed. Every member of an investigating committee should act independently and for himself. Each should make private oral report to the Master in person. The law leaves no place for proxies or go-betweens in this matter. Lodge investigating committees differ from ordinary committees in this, that instead of acting and reporting as a unit or as a whole, they act individually and make three separate reports. These reports must be made to the Master privately and orally.

Ques. 99. During the absence from lodge meeting of the Master the Senior Warden decides to call a special meeting to confer degrees. Has he that power?

Answer—The work of the lodge is always subject to the control of the Master and the law says that “no Warden can call a special meeting of the lodge while his official superior is within the territorial jurisdiction thereof and able to authorize a call, but a Warden presiding in the Master’s absence may, while thus acting, perform any act which the Master might do were he present.” We are of the opinion that the authority given to the Warden by the last clause of the above quoted law applies particularly to the meeting then in progress, and that beyond that meeting it is limited to cases when the Master’s absence referred to is absence from the jurisdiction of the lodge. Any call or notice of a special meeting made by the Warden should be made either by direction of the Master or expressly subject to his approval.

Ques. 100. A Mason asks B, who he knows is not a Mason, for information concerning A’s character and general reputation, saying: “He has made application to my lodge for membership.” Has a Mason the right

at any time to tell a non-member who has or who has not petitioned his lodge?

Answer—A Mason seeking information necessary to enable him to judge of the character of an applicant for membership, either through degrees or through affiliation, may properly get this information from any trustworthy or reliable source, but there is no need or propriety for him to tell why he seeks the information, and it would be manifestly improper and highly censurable for him to disclose the reasons for his inquiry to one not a Mason. In other words, no Mason should converse with a non-Mason about subjects that are strictly Masonic, especially when they refer to such matters as lodge relations.

Ques. 101. Can a non-affiliated Mason petition a lodge in Illinois for membership before residing in the state one year or more?

Answer—He can. The law says that “Master Masons applying for membership shall not be required to state whether they have or have not applied to any other lodge; nor shall the regulations of these by-laws concerning physical qualifications or jurisdictional residence, whether residing in this state or elsewhere, apply to such applicants.”

Ques. 102. At the opening of the lodge, there being only a limited number present and the Master knowing all to be Master Masons, is it obligatory to purge the lodge?

Answer—There is only one right, regular or proper way to open a legitimate lodge of Masons in Illinois, and that is to go through the full forms and ceremonies as practiced in all regular lodges, as prescribed by the law, and as taught by the Board of Grand Examiners. (See note on foot of page 33 of the Blue Book.)

Ques. 103. Has a member of a lodge the right to insist that every member present be compelled to vote when balloting on petitions for membership?

Answer—It is not only the right but the duty of every member present to insist that all shall ballot and this duty is especially obligatory on the Master. The law says that “in balloting upon petitions for the degrees or for membership the same shall be acted upon separately, and every member of the lodge present shall vote, nor shall any member be excused from this duty except at his own request and by unanimous consent of the other members present.”

Ques. 104. Is it made obligatory on the part of a visitor to show documentary evidence before he can be examined?

Answer—It is the duty of a committee appointed to examine a visitor to satisfy themselves thoroughly as to his standing, and if in order to do this they think documentary evidence necessary they may require it. The law does not, absolutely, make it necessary that a visitor shall have documentary evidence, but the committee is responsible for the report they make and should exercise great care.

Ques. 105. Can you tell me what the order is which is called "True Kindred"; also do you think it advisable for a Master Mason's wife to join this order? I have talked with several Masons on the subject, but they seem to know nothing about the order. Some claim it is the original auxiliary of Masonry.

Answer—As indicated in answer No. 77, the society known as "True Kindred" is without recognition by and is officially unknown to Masonry. THE MASONIC CHRONICLER has no information about the order, and can give no advice concerning it, unless it is to say that any one joining it with a view of thereby gaining any knowledge of Masonry, or of becoming united with an auxiliary of the ancient institution, would be sorely disappointed. However great its merits may be, and so far as we know it may have many admirable qualities, it is practicing deception if it claims any official connection with or recognition by Masonry.

Ques. 106. The by-laws of a lodge and the Grand Lodge laws provide that a two-thirds vote is necessary to amend the by-laws of a lodge. An amendment was put on its passage and only twenty votes cast, all in the affirmative. The Master held that the amendment was lost because two-thirds of the members present did not vote. Was the decision right?

Answer—The Master erred in attempting to announce the result until he had enforced a compliance with the law, which says that the Master has the power "to require every member of the lodge present to vote upon all questions of a business character coming before the lodge unless excused by the Master or by vote of the majority of the members present." If those not voting were excused in accordance with the above provision they would not be counted as present and twenty votes in the affirmative would carry the amendment.

Ques. 107. Is a Warden of a lodge U. D. eligible to the office of Master in a regularly chartered and constituted lodge?

Answer—A Warden of a lodge U. D. is not installed while the lodge is under dispensation, and if he never serves beyond that stage he is not eligible as Master. That is, a Warden must not only serve as such, but must be installed as Warden to be eligible for the East.

Ques. 108. A man receives the three degrees, but leaves the hall without receiving the lecture of the third degree or signing the by-laws. Is he a member of the lodge, can the lodge charge him dues, and what is his standing in the fraternity?

Answer—Much would depend upon the circumstances and whether the failure to complete the ritual and to get his signature to the by-laws was his fault or the fault of the lodge. If he refused to sign the by-laws, he would be an unaffiliated Master Mason, but could not visit any lodge, not even the one raising him, if any member objected. If, on the other hand, he was ready and willing to conform to all requirements and if he exercised the rights of membership, he would then be subject to dues and could then be disciplined if he refused to sign the by-laws when given the opportunity.

Ques. 109. A candidate petitioned lodge "A" in the city of Chicago, and was rejected. After rejection he moved to a suburb and into the jurisdiction of lodge "B." At the expiration of several years he again petitioned lodge "A." Lodge "A" received the petition, the candidate was elected and the Entered Apprentice degree was conferred on him. Lodge "B" objected and claims jurisdiction. Did lodge "A" act legally?

Answer—It did not. If a man, after being rejected by one lodge, becomes a resident of the jurisdiction of another lodge, he cannot petition either lodge without the consent of the other, because in such cases one lodge has personal jurisdiction (acquired by acting on his petition) and the other has territorial jurisdiction (acquired by reason of residence). A lodge must have both personal and territorial jurisdiction in order to legally receive a petition.

Ques. 110. Has the wife, mother, daughter, or sister of a Master Mason the legal right to wear the square and compass, and if so under what conditions?

Answer—We do not know of any civil or Masonic law

in Illinois that professes to regulate the wearing of jewelry by the fair sex. It is presumed that their own modesty, good taste and sound sense will prevent them from attempting any of the arts by which vain men parade their society standing. Genuine Masonry would be advanced by lessening rather than by increasing the display of so-called "Masonic" jewelry.

Ques. 111. In voting on the suspension of a member, can the vote be taken by a "show of hands," or must it be by secret ballot?

Answer—The law definitely requires that the vote upon the suspension of a brother must be by ballot. In general, it may be said that the intent of the law is to make it necessary to vote by ballot whenever the Masonic standing of a brother is in question.

Ques. 112. What is the status or standing of an insane brother? Can the lodge to which he belongs charge him dues?

Answer—A brother who has been legally adjudged insane, is, in the language of a former Grand Master (now incorporated into the law), practically dead to his lodge. He should not be charged with dues during the period of such legal disability, nor can he be disciplined for non-payment of dues or other delinquency, nor dimitted during such period.

Ques. 113. Can a new lodge without charter accept and elect a clandestine Mason, especially one who has preyed on the A. F. & A. M. fraternity for several years, and besides being a saloon keeper, becomes a member of our order?

Answer—A lodge under dispensation has the same powers, privileges and responsibilities regarding the receipt of petitions for degrees that a chartered lodge has. The law does not undertake to prescribe in every detail the qualifications which candidates must possess nor the vocation which they may follow. Certain broad rules are laid down as to the moral, mental and physical qualifications of petitioners, but the decisions as to whether individual applicants measure up to these requirements and are otherwise fit to become Masons is wisely left to the lodge in each case. Every lodge and every voter in the lodge is justly responsible for the admission of candidates and for the character and reputation of those accepted.

Ques. 114. Kindly inform me through the columns of THE MASONIC CHRONICLER whether the Eastern Star

organization is the recognized auxiliary of the Masonic fraternity or whether there are any others that are recognized?

Answer—Ancient Craft Masonry is an entirely original, distinct, separate and independent institution. It is in sympathy with all organizations which are really helpful to humanity and bids Godspeed to all who are honestly trying to do good, but it has no auxiliaries or subsidiaries from which it seeks assistance or to which it extends legal or official recognition.

Ques. 115. What is considered a delinquent in a Masonic lodge?

Answer—A delinquent is one who fails to perform his duty. In Masonry the term is often used to describe one who neglects to pay his annual dues at the time prescribed by the by-laws of the lodge. A member who is in arrears for dues may be called delinquent.

Ques. 116. Can one section of a degree be conferred on a candidate at one meeting and another section at a subsequent meeting?

Answer—Unless there is an unusual real emergency every degree should be completed on the same day when it is commenced. When under the Illinois law, which legalizes the merger of a special meeting into a stated meeting, the different sections of a degree are conferred at the different parts of the dual meeting, we suppose it would be legal, but such division of work should always be avoided if possible.

Ques. 117. A man petitions for the degrees and at the time was a resident of Chicago. Before the petition is acted on he removes from the jurisdiction of the lodge. Has the lodge the right to act on the petition?

Answer—We are of the opinion that the candidate should be a resident of the jurisdiction of the lodge when the report is made and the ballot taken as well as when the petition is received. We think in such cases, that the investigating committee should report a lack of jurisdiction and that the petition and fee should be returned, as provided in section 18, article 13, part 2, Grand Lodge By-laws.

Ques. 118. A man dimitted from a lodge in Iowa. He applied for affiliation with a Chicago lodge, which was refused. Can he petition another without a waiver of jurisdiction, and if so, how long a time must elapse before he again petitions?

Answer—The Grand Lodge by-laws provide that “any

brother whose application for membership has been rejected may renew his application to the same or any other lodge, without regard to time or place. The rejection of the petition of a brother for membership shall not affect his Masonic standing." A lodge does not acquire any jurisdiction over a Mason by the fact of rejecting his application for affiliation.

Ques. 119. Can a brother maimed after initiation be advanced?

Answer—This question is distinctly answered in the affirmative, by section 2, article 12, part 2, Grand Lodge by-laws. It has been definitely and repeatedly decided in the Grand Lodge of Illinois that the requirements as to physical qualification apply only to making or initiation. Brethren interested in this subject will be glad to read the reports of the Grand Lodge Committee on Jurisprudence, G. L. Pro. 1886, pp. 119-121 and 1902, p. 185.

Ques. 120. In which way does the Grand Lodge of Illinois recognize the Royal Arch Chapter of this state; or, in other words, how would you express the standing between the two organizations, as they certainly recognize one another in certain ways? I respectfully direct you to your answer No. 77, under date of April 18, 1908.

Answer—Answer 77, referred to in this question, reads as follows, viz.: "The Grand Lodge of Illinois Masonically and officially recognizes no other fraternal organization, association or society than that of Ancient Craft Masonry and no other degrees than those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason." By this we intended to express the opinion that there are no relations between Ancient Craft Masonry (i. e., lodges and grand lodges) on the one hand and chapters, commanderies, etc., on the other hand, that can be called official and that would justify saying that they Masonically *recognize* one another. Our correspondent is not satisfied with this and wants us to explain relations which we have in effect asserted do not exist at all. Under such circumstances we might perhaps fairly retort that it is "up to him" to do the explaining. But we have no desire to either evade or repel a question which has evidently puzzled our good brother and which may possibly have perplexed others. On the contrary, we are very glad to do the best we can to throw light on this problem. Much of the difficulty in understanding the matter grows out of the fact that various bodies, each having a distinct and separate government, all use the

Masonic name, thereby conveying the impression that they are officially related and mutually interdependent, that membership in the chapter, etc., is restricted to those who have previously become members of lodges and that the Masonic meaning and use of the word "recognize" is not generally understood, even by Masons. The general or common definition of the word recognize is, "to avow knowledge or to acknowledge acquaintance with." To arrive at the Masonic meaning and use of the term we must add to this that the knowledge or acquaintance must be mutual and reciprocal. Now, although all Masons of every grade may in a general way *know* that the others exist, and although the membership in some grade may be restricted to those who are members of another grade, this knowledge is not necessarily, and indeed cannot be mutual and reciprocal, and therefore cannot constitute official knowledge or justify Masonic recognition. In other words, the Masonic knowledge that all Master Masons in common possess, i. e., a knowledge of Ancient Craft Masonry, constitutes the only ground for general *Masonic recognition*, because it is only upon the plane of Ancient Craft Masonry that the different grades can all meet on the same level. Recognition among Masonic bodies can exist only between such of them as can meet upon terms of complete amenity and equality.

Ques. 121. A candidate having been rejected in another state, petitions a lodge in Illinois. Said lodge asks for and is granted a waiver of jurisdiction. The petition is received and the candidate is rejected. He waits two years and repetitions same lodge. First, is it necessary for the Master, when the ballot is about to be taken, to inform the lodge that the candidate had previously petitioned that lodge and been rejected? Second, is it necessary for the Master at time of the ballot to announce that the candidate had been rejected in a foreign jurisdiction as well as in said lodge?

Answer—First, in our opinion the Master should give the brethren present this information. The question before the lodge is primarily and mainly upon the petition of the candidate and only incidentally upon the report of the committee, which is a supplement or amendment to the petition. Therefore a proper statement or submission of the question to the lodge previous to the ballot involves a statement by the presiding officer of the main points which all petitions contain, such as age, residence, occupation, including the question of a previous

petition. The presentation of such a statement of the question is in accordance with the general parliamentary law and usage and is the general, if not universal, custom in all regular and well governed lodges, and therefore it was not necessary to embody it in law, although the presentation of the incidental part, that is the part taken by the committee, is specified quite fully. Second, we do not think it was necessary or proper for the Master to make any mention of the rejection in another state at the time when the second petition came up for ballot, because if the rule laid down in the first part of this answer was followed, that portion was attended to when he was balloted upon the first time in the Illinois lodge.

Ques. 122. Is it absolutely necessary for Secretaries to fill out, year after year, the occupation of the old members?

Answer—It is necessary for Secretaries and all other good Masons to comply with Masonic law as far as they can. The law (page 110, Blue Book) makes it the duty of Secretaries to furnish such matters as may be required by the blank form of report, and the blank forms have a column for occupation. Therefore it would appear to be the duty of Secretaries as long as the law and the blank forms remain as they are, and as they have been for many years, to furnish the information herein referred to.

Ques. 123. A member of a lodge dies. His family requests a Masonic funeral, but objects to an officer of the lodge being present or participating in the service. What is the duty of the Master under such circumstances.

Answer—It is the duty of the Master to uphold the prerogative of his office and to preserve the dignity and honor of the fraternity, and he must not permit any one (particularly nonmasons) to dictate how or through whom he shall discharge the functions of the lodge. He should kindly, but firmly, inform the family of these facts, and they must submit to his decision or dispense with the Masonic services. If they acquiesce he could then hear their reasons for objecting to an individual and use a generous and fraternal discretion in selecting officers for the occasion.

Ques. 124. A Master desiring to absent himself from lodge meeting sends his reports on petitions to the Senior Warden by proxy. Did he act legally?

Answer—The reports of the members of the investigating committee must be made to the Master orally and

*privately.* This means that he must receive and treat them as *official* communications, to be transmitted to the lodge by himself in person or through the proper official channel, which in the case herein stated would be the Senior Warden. This is a case in which the employment of a proxy or go-between would not be in accordance with the spirit of the law and would not be legal.

Ques. 125. Must the charter of a lodge be displayed in the lodge hall during the sessions of the lodge?

Answer—It is always well to have the charter of the lodge present at the meetings of the lodge, but it is not absolutely necessary.

Ques. 126. Has a lodge a right to waive territorial jurisdiction over a man? In other words, a man living in Chicago desires to petition a lodge at Hammond, Ind. How can a waiver of jurisdiction be had?

Answer—In the City of Chicago or other places where concurrent jurisdiction exists, a waiver of jurisdiction is obtained by applying to the lodges nearest to the residence of the candidate. When two or more lodges are equally near, the application is made to the oldest of these lodges. Request for such waiver must come from a lodge to which the candidate has applied for degrees, and must be referred to an investigating committee and notification sent to all lodges holding concurrent jurisdiction. The ballot is taken at the next or some subsequent meeting.

Ques. 128. A man who has never petitioned a Masonic lodge for degrees removes from town A to town B, both in the state of Illinois. Can he immediately petition the lodge at B if the lodge at A is willing to waive jurisdiction?

Answer—The lodge at A has nothing to waive, because it never had personal jurisdiction (he never having petitioned) and it lost territorial jurisdiction the day he removed from its boundaries. He could not petition lodge B until he had resided in its jurisdiction six months, or, if he came from another state, one year.

Ques. 129. Has a lodge U. D. the right to conduct the Masonic funeral service?

Answer—If a request for Masonic burial comes from the proper source to a lodge U. D., or to its appropriate officers, we are of the opinion that it is not only the right, but the duty of the lodge to perform the service.

Ques. 130. In the event of both Wardens leaving the state of Illinois permanently, how should the Master

proceed in order to vacate the offices held by the absentees and place the lodge in a position to fill the vacancies?

Answer—The Grand Lodge by-laws provide that when “a Master or Warden becomes physically or mentally disqualified to perform the duties of his office or has permanently removed from its jurisdiction, the lodge may certify the fact to the Grand Master, who in his discretion may declare a vacancy or grant a dispensation authorizing resignation or dimit and order an election to fill vacancy.”

Ques. 131. Does the act of accepting an office in a lodge U. D. in any way impair a man's rights and privileges in his mother lodge?

Answer—According to the Grand Lodge by-laws, “Members of a chartered lodge who are also members of a lodge U. D. may vote and hold office in both lodges, except that neither the Master, Senior Warden, nor Junior Warden of a chartered lodge shall take part in the formation of a lodge under dispensation during his official term.”

Ques. 132. Who are voters in Grand Lodge, how many votes does each lodge have, what is the total number of votes that may be cast, and are there any safeguards against irregular, duplicate or unauthorized voting?

Answer—The government system of our Grand Lodge is founded on the idea that the constituent lodges shall control its affairs. To this end each lodge is entitled to be represented in Grand Lodge by its Master and two Wardens, each having one vote, thus giving each lodge three votes. According to the report of the Committee on Chartered Lodges in 1907 there were 762 lodges in Illinois. If all were represented there might have been 2,286 votes cast by lodges. To this should be added 1 vote each for the 6 elective officers of the Grand Lodge, 1 vote each for such of the 13 Past Grand Masters as were present, 1 vote for the Past Deputy Grand Masters collectively, 1 vote for the Past Grand Wardens collectively, and 1 vote for the Past Masters collectively, or 22 votes to be added to the 2,286, making a grand total of 2,308 that might be cast. Of course this varies from year to year and with the fullness of the attendance. It will be observed that District Deputy Grand Masters and appointive Grand Lodge officers are not entitled to vote, and that all of the Past Masters of the state have but 1 vote collectively. Provision is made for casting the entire vote of the lodge and as to how it may be

divided when the three representatives are not all in attendance; provision is also made for the appointment of proxies in writing, and that all voters, whether voting in person or by proxy, must have their names entered on the roll of the Credentials Committee. No provision is made for equalizing the vote in cases where the vote is taken by show of hands, if one lodge has only one representative present while another has two or three. This is a serious defect that should be remedied by appropriate legislation. The system contemplates that the voting will be done by ballot or by a call of the roll of lodges. The latter is the only method that affords any opportunity to verify the vote, but on account of the time and labor involved in its operation it is seldom used. We think a vote has not been taken in this way since 1894. The ballot is used only in electing officers. When a ballot is taken each representative of a lodge may think himself the only one present and cast three votes, thus giving his lodge nine votes, or, being the only one present, may cast only one vote when his lodge is entitled to three. For these and other reasons serious errors are liable to occur. Practically there are no safeguards against irregular, duplicate and unauthorized voting except the provisions which require written proxies, the enrollment of all voters, a vote by call of lodges, and the reliance that may be placed upon the intelligence, honesty and loyalty of the members. It is very generally felt that such safeguards as we now have should be more rigidly enforced and that others might well be provided.

Ques. 133. When a lodge opens before the hour set for the stated meeting and examines a candidate, should the lodge then be opened on the third degree for the purpose of work, and merged, or opened for the transaction of business?

Answer—An examination of that section of the law which relates to merging a special into a stated communication will show that a merger can be made only after the lodge “has been regularly opened on the first, second and third degrees for a special meeting.” The declaration for “dispatch of business” goes with stated meetings only.

Ques. 134. A man claiming to be a Mason calls at the place of business of a Mason and asks for relief. Has the Mason the right to personally examine him in order to satisfy himself, or would it be proper to invite the stranger to the lodge and have the Master appoint a committee?

Answer—One Mason has the right to examine another for the purpose of satisfying himself personally that he is a Mason, but this does not carry with it the right to vouch for him in lodge or to other Masons, until the Master has been advised of the facts and is willing to ratify the avouchment. In other words, a lay brother has no right to appoint himself as a committee to examine a stranger or to judge of his own qualifications to act as such committee when others than himself are involved.

Ques. 135. A man is elected Master of a lodge. Before being installed he is compelled to remove from the state. Is it necessary to have a new election or would the Senior Warden, upon being installed, become acting Master for that year?

Answer—Inasmuch as the law requires that the installation of officers must commence with the Master, the Senior Warden could not be installed in advance of the Master. In the case stated, two courses were open. First, to install all the officers including the Master, and upon the removal of the latter the Senior Warden would perform the duties of Master; second, let the Master-elect decline to be installed (and this should be in writing) and apprise the Grand Master of the facts. The latter would then grant a dispensation to elect another Master and would no doubt include in the dispensation the power to elect any other officer whose station or place was made vacant by the new election.

Ques. 136. A petition for degrees is read in open lodge. Objection is raised to the petition being received and referred. Does the lodge acquire jurisdiction over the petitioner?

Answer—If objection is made to the receiving of a petition, the Master should immediately put the question to the lodge, “Shall this petition be received?” A majority vote by show of hands would decide the question. If the decision is in the affirmative the lodge thereby takes personal jurisdiction and the petition takes the usual course. If decided in the negative the lodge does not, in our opinion, acquire personal jurisdiction over the candidate, though it retains territorial jurisdiction as long as the petitioner remains a resident, and his application can be renewed at any time.

Ques. 137. The minutes of a previous meeting were read in a lodge. An omission was discovered. Has the

Master the power to order the omitted matter to be inserted and his order made a matter of record, or should a motion prevail to amend the minutes?

Answer—The Master not only has the power, but it is his duty also, to have added to the minutes previous to approval any matter which is omitted from them and which in his judgment should be recorded therein. He should also order any changes in the minutes which are necessary to make them conform to the facts. No action of the lodge is necessary to accomplish this. The important thing is that the minutes shall be full and correct before they are approved. The steps through which they are made correct are not necessarily matters of record. If there is a difference of opinion as to what actually took place and if the Master is in doubt as to the facts, he may, if he chooses, let that question be decided by a vote of those who were present.

Ques. 138. Has the Master or Secretary of a lodge the lawful right to attach the seal of the lodge to any paper showing the standing of a member, other than to a regular dimit, a receipt for dues or the usual form of certificate of membership?

Answer—We cannot now call to mind any legitimate use of the seal of a lodge for the benefit of an individual member that is not covered by the three instances named in the question. The requests of brethren or societies for special certificates or for letters of commendation addressed to persons or organizations should not receive that official sanction which the use of the seal would imply.

Ques. 139. A petitions a lodge for degrees and is rejected. He petitions another lodge and a waiver of jurisdiction is denied. Does the lodge he petitions last acquire jurisdiction?

Answer—The second lodge did not acquire jurisdiction in the case described. That was the very thing asked for and refused.

Ques. 140. Where the same Tyler's register is used by both members and visitors should the Secretary's minutes contain the names of members and visitors present?

Answer—The "good old way" and the installation ceremonies have long agreed in making it the duty of the Secretary to record in the minutes the names of all officers, members and visitors present at lodge meetings, and the recently revised law requires the same thing.

The new law, however, makes an attempt to lighten the Secretary's work by a special provision for keeping the record of members present through the use of a separate book prepared for that express purpose and placed in the Tyler's room. It also makes it the duty of the members to record their names therein before entering the lodge. If these provisions of the law are observed the entries in the book become a part of the Secretary's official record. If a mixed register is used, it does not meet the requirements of the law and does not relieve the Secretary from entering all names in his minutes.

Ques. 141. Is the Tyler's register a part of the records of a lodge?

Answer—The so-called Tyler's register as sometimes kept for the use of members and visitors indiscriminately is not a part of the official records of the lodge. The law does not recognize a Tyler's register. There should be a book in the Tyler's room for keeping a memorandum of those in attendance, but this general register is not official. A separate register for members (being one of the Secretary's books and a part of his records) may be provided as indicated in the preceding answer and when so provided and kept becomes a part of the official record.

Ques. 142. Is a Master justified in inquiring into the reasons for an adverse report on a candidate for the degrees?

Answer—The Master is not justified in asking for reasons why a member of a committee of investigation reports favorably or unfavorably. Each member of the committee should report his own conclusion, unbiased, unfettered and uninfluenced by any one.

Ques. 143. Is a Master when ordering a ballot on a petition for degrees, required to state to whom the petition was referred, how many reported, what number reported favorably and what number unfavorably?

Answer—The law requires the Master to inform the lodge as to all the above points except the first, and long established custom as well as propriety of furnishing the brethren with all proper information requires him to do that also.

Ques. 144. Can the Master be compelled by any process to spread a ballot on a petition for degrees which has been before the lodge a long time?

Answer—When a Master fails to perform his duty, the only way in which the lodge can compel him "to sit

up and take notice" is through a complaint to the Grand Master. The lodge in itself cannot coerce or govern its Master.

Ques. 145. A man took a dimit from a lodge in North Ireland ten years ago and lost it. What is the proper way for him to gain membership in a lodge in Chicago?

Answer—He should apply to his lodge for a duplicate dimit and send the same with his petition for affiliation to the lodge of his selection. If his lodge refuses to grant a formal duplicate dimit, it will at least write him a letter or give him a certificate stating that a dimit had been issued at a specified date, and he could submit such certificate, together with proof of loss of the original dimit, to the Chicago lodge. This would no doubt be deemed sufficient, if he can stand examination or is vouched for as a Master Mason.

Ques. 146. Can a lodge vote on a request for waiver of jurisdiction by show of hands?

Answer—A waiver of jurisdiction over a candidate for the degrees can be granted only by a unanimous ballot. A waiver of jurisdiction over an Entered Apprentice or Fellow Craft may be granted by a majority vote by show of hands, but the candidate must be elected by a unanimous ballot before he can become a member of the lodge receiving the waiver.

Ques. 147. A man petitions a lodge for degrees and is rejected. Later the lodge surrenders its charter and he petitions another lodge. Is it necessary to obtain consent of the Grand Lodge before acting on the petition?

Answer—It is not necessary to get the consent of the Grand Lodge, but it is necessary to apply regularly for the degrees to the lodge which falls heir to the surrendered territory, or to get a waiver of jurisdiction from said lodge.

Ques. 148. Is a member of a lodge U. D. liable for dues in his chartered lodge until the lodge U. D. is constituted?

Answer—He must pay dues in the chartered lodge until the new lodge is chartered. In most cases this is provided for in advance because it is necessary to file with the petition for dispensation receipts for dues from all affiliated Masons till the date of next meeting of Grand Lodge. The question can arise only in cases where a dispensation is continued beyond the next meeting of Grand Lodge.

Ques. 149. Can a summons to appear at lodge or before a committee be sent by mail?

Answer—It can, but when so sent it ceases to be a summons, no matter how worded, and becomes only a notice.

Ques. 150. A man petitions a lodge, is elected and the degrees of E. A. and F. C. are conferred. He then removes from the jurisdiction of the lodge. Can he petition for and receive the degree of Master Mason in another lodge and become a member thereof, provided lodge No. 1 waives jurisdiction?

Answer—He can, provided further that he is elected by unanimous ballot in lodge No. 2.

Ques. 151. Can a member be elected to office a lodge who is not present at the meeting at which the election is held?

Answer—He can, if he has the requisite number of votes. A member's absence on the night of election does not disqualify him from being elected to office. If he declines to be installed a new election for the office would be necessary and a dispensation would have to be obtained. This risk is the probable reason why so many brethren think a man cannot be elected in his absence.

Ques. 152. Has a Past Master the right to offer resolutions, amendments to Grand Lodge by-laws, etc., at the annual meeting of the Grand Lodge?

Answer—He has, if he remains a member of an Illinois lodge. Past Masters are members of the Grand Lodge and have the privilege of speaking, proposing motions, etc., but it takes all the Past Masters collectively to cast one vote.

Ques. 153. A and B sat in lodge together, the lodge being open on third degree. C is a friend of A and wishes to visit B's lodge. A vouches to B for C. Can B vouch to his Tyler for C, or will C have to stand examination before being admitted?

Answer—Either of two Masons who have sat in a Master Mason's lodge together or who know each other to be Master Masons, can vouch for the other to a third person, whom he knows to be a Master Mason, provided the three are present when the avouchment is made. Under like conditions this avouchment can be extended indefinitely. A definite statement must be made in the presence of the three, that he is vouched for as a Master Mason. In the case described in this question, B's

avouchment to the Tyler for € constituted legal information.

Ques. 154. Has a Master-elect the right to designate who shall conduct the ceremonies installing him into office, or does that power rest with the outgoing Master?

Answer—Ancient usage has established it as a prerogative of the Master of a lodge that he may install his successor. If this right is frankly conceded by the Master-elect, as it always should be, there will seldom or never be any difficulty in reaching a mutual and amicable arrangement for the ceremonies.

Ques. 155. Can a Master Mason who has never been elected Master of a lodge legally conduct the installation ceremonies?

Answer—He cannot. To be legally qualified to install the officers of an Illinois lodge a brother must have been duly elected and regularly installed as Master of a chartered lodge working under the jurisdiction of some recognized Grand Lodge and must at the time of exercising such authority be an actual member in good standing of some regular lodge.

Ques. 156. When the Master of a lodge uses wrong wording in giving an order to the Senior Warden, should the Senior Warden, in conveying the order to the Junior Warden, repeat it literally as given by the Master or should he take the liberty to correct it?

Answer—This is a delicate question, containing a mixture of power and politeness. As a pure matter of power the Master has the right to give the brethren instruction and the brethren have no appeal as to its being proper except through the Grand Master. The Senior Warden has no right to correct the Master, but when a mere slip in verbiage occurs and this can be rectified without any appearance of superiority or any breach of politeness, it is usually better for the Warden, without ostentation and without any apparent notice of the error, to quietly say it right, if he is absolutely certain he knows the correct wording.

Ques. 157. A man is expelled from his lodge and no appeal is taken to the Grand Lodge. Can the lodge expelling him reinstate him without the consent or concurrence of the Grand Lodge?

Answer—It cannot. When a lodge expels a member it is fair to believe that it was legally done, and if no appeal is taken and the verdict accepted, this conclusion is emphasized. No lodge has the power to restore an

expelled Mason to membership nor to his former rights and privileges in Masonry. The Grand Lodge may upon the recommendation of the lodge expelling him restore him to good standing in the fraternity and give him a certificate to that effect, after which he may petition his former lodge or any other for membership.

Ques. 158. In case both Senior and Junior Warden should leave the jurisdiction of their lodge, thus leaving the lodge without a Warden or a member who had served as a Warden, could the lodge elect one of the other officers Master, or would it be necessary to reelect the Master?

Answer—The general rule is that a brother must have served as a Warden in order to be eligible as Master, but section 1, article 6, part 2, Grand Lodge by-laws, provides that “in case of an emergency the lodge may elect a member not so qualified, but no brother so elected can be installed except by dispensation, applied for by written petition of the lodge, signed by the present Master and Wardens and resident Past Masters and Wardens.” In other words, the request for dispensation must be signed by all who are constitutionally eligible to the office.

Ques. 159. A petitioner for degrees was elected and objection was made to his initiation. He moved out of the jurisdiction and after the lapse of a year or more petitioned another lodge, stating the facts. Can the lodge first receiving the petition grant a waiver of jurisdiction?

Answer—If it is conceded that the jurisdiction which a lodge acquires over a candidate by regularly electing him continues indefinitely even after he has removed from its territory (a point which courtesy may demand, though the solons differ as to its legality), then we think the lodge may, by unanimous ballot, waive jurisdiction, provided that the waiver is asked for by a lodge which the candidate has petitioned after residing the requisite time in its jurisdiction. The application for waiver, after being read in lodge, must lie over till a subsequent stated meeting, and properly to guard all rights the members should be notified of the pending application. We do not think an objection to initiation can be renewed against a non-resident who has applied to another lodge.

Ques. 160. In publishing notices of future work to be done by a lodge, is it legal to designate the degree

or give the name of the candidate on whom the degree is to be conferred?

Answer—It is not, because the law distinctly says that “no details of work to be done or business transacted shall be made public.” The custom which has become somewhat prevalent among a portion of our lodges to advertise the work to be done and the names of candidates (particularly where they are men of prominence) cannot be too severely condemned.

Ques. 161. Has a trial committee any right to find a defendant guilty or not guilty and so report its findings to the lodge, or must it confine its labors to taking testimony and submitting its report of the evidence without recommendations?

Answer—There is no provision in the law for a “trial committee.” The law does provide for a special committee to take testimony, but specifically says that “a committee appointed by a lodge to take evidence in a trial cannot push or modify the charge and specifications. Neither can the committee try the case and report its conclusions.”

Ques. 162. What is the origin of the term “So mote it be”?

Answer—The use of this term no doubt grew out of the usages of responsive worship. The custom of saying “Amen” at the end of an invocation or prayer is very ancient and almost universal. It means, “So be it,” and when the priest or leader said “Amen” (so be it), it was very natural and under ancient custom very proper for the audiences or participants to respond, “We say so, too”—i. e., “So mote (may) it be.” It is merely the perpetuation in Masonry of an ancient custom among the devout.

Ques. 163. A stranger calls at a place of business where there are two or more Masons and requests recognition as a Mason. Would it be legal for the Masons to apply the test oath before satisfying themselves that the stranger was a Mason?

Answer—In our opinion Masons meeting under the circumstances described have the right to reciprocally satisfy each other of their Masonic status by such tests as may seem to them necessary, including a mutual participation in the test oath; but this does not carry with it any right to vouch to others or to the lodge. To give the authority to transmit the avouchment to others, the Master, who is the judge of a Mason’s competence to

conduct an examination and who decides whether a visitor may enter the lodge, must appoint the committee or ratify its action. A self-appointed examination committee has no standing until confirmed by the Master.

Ques. 164. Will you kindly give a few rules for the guidance of a newly made Mason when visiting a lodge?

Answer—This is a pretty broad proposition, but perhaps the following suggestions are in order and may be of possible service to an inexperienced visitor: First—If in doubt about the regularity of the lodge, stay away from it; that is, do not go to a lodge and start in by asking to see its charter. Such a course would show that the visitor was bumptious and trying to judge of matters quite beyond him. Second—Remember that it is the visitor that is seeking the favor—viz., the privilege of visiting—and he should therefore deport himself accordingly. Act like a gentleman among gentlemen. Third—Be prepared and willing to answer all proper Masonic questions Masonically put, to furnish all necessary legal proofs, and to meet all reasonable tests as to Masonic status. Fourth—Expect, and courteously insist, that the examination shall be conducted along strictly Masonic lines, i. e.: If there is any disposition shown to indulge in extraneous matters, politely request that inasmuch as Masonic answers are expected, the questions should be put in Masonic form, thus keeping the examination within proper limits and making it both Masonic and mutual. Fifth—if the committee fails to satisfy the visitor that a visit to its lodge is desirable, the latter has the privilege of quietly withdrawing.

Ques. 165. A Master Mason procured a loan of \$100 and gave his note therefor, alleging at the time that he owned the house in which he lived and did not owe any one a cent. As a matter of fact, he had deserted his wife and family, never owned a house, and was in debt. Could his lodge expel him?

Answer—If a Mason secures a loan by means of misrepresentation and falsehood, he is guilty of fraud, and can be Masonically disciplined for it. If he uses his connection with Masonry to promote the fraud, so much the worse for him, and in such cases expulsion would be none too severe a penalty.

Ques. 166. When a lodge refuses to waive jurisdiction, can the request for the waiver be renewed before the lapse of one year?

Answer—The time that must elapse between requests

would depend upon whether the request was made in behalf of an original petitioner or one who had already received one or more degrees. The law says that, "If the request for a waiver of jurisdiction is refused, it may, in the case of original petitioners, be renewed after a lapse of six months. In other cases it may be renewed at pleasure, though not oftener than three times in any one year."

Ques. 167. Can objection be raised to the initiation of a candidate during initiation?

Answer—"An objection to the initiation of a legally elected candidate, to be operative, must be made before the order is given to prepare him."

Ques. 168. When an Entered Apprentice transfers his petition to another lodge, must he undergo the ordeal of another ballot, or can the lodge by majority vote accept his petition and proceed to confer the degrees?

Answer—He must be elected by a unanimous ballot upon a regular petition for the Degrees of Fellow Craft and Master Mason, before he can receive the degrees as a candidate of the second lodge or become a member thereof.

Ques. 169. A man petitions a lodge for degrees and is elected. After election and before initiation it is learned that he was rejected in another jurisdiction, which fact he failed to state in his petition. The lodge electing him asked for a waiver of jurisdiction. In the event of a waiver being granted, is the election legal, and can the lodge proceed to confer the degrees without further action?

Answer—It cannot. The election of a candidate, under the circumstances described, was not valid, for at least two good reasons: First—Because at the time the ballot was taken the lodge did not have legal jurisdiction. Second—Because an important feature of the candidate's character, viz., his want of veracity, was then unknown to the members of the lodge. If, in a case of this sort, the Master should attempt to initiate the candidate, the Grand Master should be informed, and the candidate should be stayed by objection till he purges himself of his attempted deception of the lodge, and until he is elected by unanimous ballot after all the facts are known to the lodge.

Ques. 170. When a lodge not having jurisdiction rejects a candidate, does it acquire jurisdiction?

Answer—A lodge does not acquire jurisdiction which

it does not otherwise possess by the mere act of rejecting the candidate. But this does not excuse the candidate from stating all the facts when he petitions another lodge. In other words, it is not left for the candidate to determine whether the lodge had jurisdiction.

Ques. 171. Is it obligatory on the part of the Master of a lodge to fill all stations, such as Treasurer, Chaplain, etc., before proceeding to open the lodge?

Answer—There are only four stations in a lodge. These must all be filled before the lodge can properly be opened. The places from which responses are required in the opening ceremonies should also be filled and when the number present will permit, it is better, more dignified and more orderly to fill all places. But when we remember that seven members (one of whom must be the Tyler) can open the lodge and transact business, it will be seen that it is not absolutely required to fill all places. Much must be left to the good sense of the Master, who will generally exercise a wise discretion in such matters.

Ques. 172. Is it right and proper to make nominating speeches or complimentary remarks when placing a brother's name before the lodge for election to office?

Answer—Eulogistic comments and laudatory talk about a brother placed in nomination for office are very improper and decidedly out of order. They would not be tolerated in Grand Lodge and there ought to be a law prohibiting such servile imitation of political methods in a lodge. It would be better if the bare suggestion of names were prohibited. The Grand Lodge placed itself on record in opposition to the practice in 1905, when it adopted the report of the Jurisprudence Committee, saying that "the practice of nominations to any office in lodge, or Grand Lodge, is of recent origin, and not productive of good results."

Ques. 173. Has the Master of a lodge the power to suspend from any office an elective officer on the ground that the officer is not capable of performing the work?

Answer—The Master is responsible for the proper conduct of the work and business of the lodge, and if, in order to accomplish this, it becomes necessary to temporarily suspend an officer he has the undoubted right to do it. This, however, should not be allowed to extend beyond the time necessary to invoke the aid and advice of the Grand Master, or to bring the delinquent to time by means of regular charges and a trial.

Ques. 174. A man is elected and initiated in a lodge,

After becoming an Entered Apprentice the Master issued an order that the candidate should not be advanced for six months, setting up moral grounds as a reason for his action. Can the Master impose a penalty without having charges preferred?

Answer—A candidate whose advancement to the second or third degree is stayed by objection has the right to demand a trial whether the objection is made by the Master or any other member. It is not the province of the Master to adjudge penalties, though he may temporarily suspend the progress of a candidate till proper investigation or trial can be had.

Ques. 175. After election to receive the degrees how can a man be objected to, to prevent his advancement?

Answer—There is a very marked difference between objection to initiation and objection to advancement. This difference is pretty clearly set forth in the law to which our questioner is fraternally referred. He will here find that a member of a lodge may object to the initiation of a candidate after he has been elected, and that the objection will prevent initiation for one year. The objection may be renewed indefinitely. No reasons for the objection need be given, nor can the objector be required to give any. After the candidate has received one or more degrees, an objector to his advancement must give reasons, and the candidate may demand a trial to show whether the lodge sustains the objections. Other points will appear from a careful reading of the law.

Ques. 176. An unaffiliated Mason desires to become a member of a lodge outside of the jurisdiction in which he resides. Can the lodge admit him to membership?

Answer—Yes. Jurisdiction lines do not apply to regularly dimitted Master Masons seeking affiliation.

Ques. 177. When a lodge, under the direction of its Master, takes action contrary to the law, is it the duty of any member of the lodge, having knowledge of such illegal action, to lay the matter before the Grand Master?

Answer—It is every Mason's duty to obey the law, and to use all reasonable efforts to prevent its infraction. This responsibility rests upon all, and the higher the position the greater the responsibility. If the Master violates the law, fraternally call his attention to the fracture; if that does not suffice, call up the District Deputy Grand Master, and if that fails, promptly notify the Grand Master. Do not be deterred from duty and obligation by any cry of "informer," "spy," "tale

bearer," or any other epithet that may be used to shield wrong doing.

Ques. 178. A member who had been expelled was subsequently reinstated by the Grand Lodge, upon recommendation of his lodge. The lodge charges an affiliation fee of \$10. In order to be affiliated must he pay the \$10?

Answer—When the Grand Lodge acts favorably on the petition of an expelled Mason, he is thereby restored to good standing in the fraternity and is given a certificate to that effect, but he is not restored to membership in his former lodge by such action. To regain lodge membership he must regularly petition his former lodge or any other lodge he may prefer for affiliation, and must pay such affiliation fee as the by-laws of the petitioned lodge prescribe.

Ques. 179. Would a brother who was appointed and installed Grand Chaplain of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of the State of Illinois to fill an unexpired term be entitled to the distinction of Right Worshipful? If not, is there any other title he would be entitled to?

Answer—The constitution of the Grand Lodge provides that the Grand Chaplain shall be styled Right Worshipful. As soon as a brother has been regularly elected or appointed and installed in an office, he is entitled to the designation that pertains to that office, without regard to the time for which he holds the place.

Ques. 180. Is there any law governing the election of honorary members? If so, does it require a secret ballot?

Answer—The law prescribes the following qualifications as requisites to honorary membership: First—The brother must be a member in good standing of some other regular lodge. Second—His name must be proposed at a previous stated meeting of the lodge. Third—He must be elected by unanimous ballot.

Ques. 181. When a brother enters objection to a visitor, does that objection become perpetual during the membership of the objector, or must it be renewed at each meeting, and in case of failure or absence on the part of the objector, can the visitor receive recognition?

Answer—The right of objection to a visitor is a purely personal matter, and holds good only during the presence of the objector. In the absence of the objector the visitor could sit in the lodge if no other brother objected. It would be necessary for the objector to renew his objection every time there was a change of Masters, or

whenever the Master forgot the objection. An objection to a visitor is not a proper matter for record.

Ques. 182. Has an unaffiliated Master Mason holding a dimit from a lodge in another grand jurisdiction a right to assist in the formation of a lodge U. D. in Illinois?

Answer—Yes, if the grand jurisdiction from which he comes is recognized as regular by the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

Ques. 184. Why cannot the Grand Master grant a dispensation to elect a man for the degrees in Masonry who is physically deficient?

Answer—Because there are certain qualifications that candidates must possess which rest upon fundamental principles called landmarks or essential characteristics of the institution. These are embodied in the Magna Charta of Masonry known as the “Charges of a Freemason,” and among them is the requirement that the initiate must be “a perfect youth having no maim or defect in his body that may render him incapable of learning the art \* \* \*.” This has been authoritatively interpreted to mean that “he must be capable of conforming literally to what the several degrees respectively require of him.” Thus the requirement that the candidate must possess the physical ability necessary to comply completely with all the details called for in the ceremonies rests upon an immovable landmark and becomes an indispensable requisite. The Grand Master cannot obliterate the landmark nor change the fundamental law, nor can he remove the defect, and hence he cannot issue a dispensation that would be of any force. In order to save the Grand Master from the importunities of those who do not understand this primary principle of Masonry, there has been embodied in the law the provision that it shall not be set aside, suspended or dispensed with by the Grand Master or the Grand Lodge.

Ques. 185. A man living in the jurisdiction of a lodge, which is just outside of a city where concurrent jurisdiction exists, petitions said lodge and is rejected. After some years a new lodge locates in the city near the city limits and the concurrent jurisdiction of the city lodges is thereby extended to include the locality where the petitioner lived and still is residing. The lodge he originally petitioned still exists. He has not moved from the jurisdiction of one to that of another or others. The question is, does the original lodge hold sole jurisdiction

over him, or would section 15, article 13, part 2, Grand Lodge by-laws, have to be complied with? The law does not seem to exactly cover this case.

Answer—THE CHRONICLER is of the opinion that the spirit of the principle embodied in sections 6 and 15, article 13, part 2, Grand Lodge by-laws, is that whenever the condition exists (no matter how brought about), wherein one lodge has territorial jurisdiction over a candidate by reason of his residing within its territory and another lodge has personal jurisdiction over him by reason of having rejected his application, that he must have the consent of both jurisdictions before he can be regularly made a Mason.

Ques. 186. A man served as Warden in his lodge. He subsequently dimitted and affiliated with another lodge. Can he be legally elected Master?

Answer—If he was regularly elected and installed as Warden of a regular lodge, he thereby became eligible to the office of Master of any lodge with which he subsequently affiliated.

Ques. 187. After the work of conferring degrees has been commenced during a stated meeting, can the lodge legally transact business relating to financial or other matters?

Answer—The law says that “a lodge shall not transact any business involving final action by vote of the lodge at any communication after the work of conferring degrees has begun.”

Ques. 188. If an officer resigns and a dispensation is granted by the Grand Master to hold a special election, must any specified time elapse before the election can be held?

Answer—The law does not specify that any set time must elapse before the election may be held, but time sufficient to enable proper notice to the members should always be allowed. The Grand Master would probably make due provision for this in his dispensation.

Ques. 189. Is it necessary that the Treasurer of a lodge deposit the funds of the lodge in the name of the lodge and keep them separated from his personal account?

Answer—This is a matter that should be specifically governed by lodge by-laws. The Grand Lodge law provides that the “Treasurer of a lodge should keep the funds and accounts of the lodge entirely distinct from all others and in case he has a bank account, the fund

of the lodge should be deposited to his credit as Treasurer.''

Ques. 190. Have the Master and Wardens a right to loan the moneys of the lodge without the knowledge and consent of the lodge?

Answer—They have not. The members of the lodge should have a voice in determining what disposition shall be made of the property and funds of the lodge.

Ques. 190½—Did the Grand Lodge laws ever confer on the lodges the right to create life members?

Answer—The custom of creating life membership grew up in the lodges, without any authority from the Grand Lodge. It was permitted to continue for several years, but when the Grand Lodge took up the question, the legislation was adverse to any form of life membership.

Ques. 191. Is it obligatory to read the minutes of all meetings in order that they may be approved? In other words, can the Master order that the minutes of a meeting be dispensed with entirely?

Answer—It is necessary that the minutes of all meetings should be both read and approved before they can become a part of the regular records of the lodge.

Ques. 191½. If a man takes out a dimit and desires to again become an affiliated member of the same lodge, must he undergo the ordeal of a ballot, and in that event must the ballot be unanimous?

Answer—Yes. A regularly dimitted Mason desiring to affiliate, gets back into his old lodge by exactly the same process necessary to join any other lodge.

Ques. 192. A man was suspended for non-payment of dues over twenty years ago. He now petitions for reinstatement. Must his petition be referred to a committee of investigation?

Answer—The law does not require the appointment of a committee, but it does require that the petition must lie over at least one stated meeting before being voted upon. This delay is necessary in order that the brethren may satisfy themselves of the worthiness of the applicant, and this end can generally be best attained in cases of long standing if the Master exercises his right to appoint a committee to look up his character and standing. The vote must be by ballot.

Ques. 192½. Is it legal for the Master of a lodge to excuse any member from voting on a petition for the

degrees or membership? Should it not be put to vote of the lodge?

Answer—No member of the lodge who is present can be excused from voting on a petition for degrees or membership except upon his own request and by unanimous consent of the other members present. In questions of a business character coming before the lodge, a member may be excused from voting by the Master or by a vote of the majority of the members present.

Ques. 193. To what length would sedition and rebellion have to be carried to constitute treason according to Masonic law and usage, and what, if any, disciplinary measures should the fraternity take as to the punishment of those of its membership who commit such crimes?

Answer—If a member's acts should become so conspicuously and notoriously rebellious against government as to leave no doubt of his being guilty of sedition, the duty of expelling him from Masonry would be plain and imperative. But opinions differ as to what constitutes rebellion or sedition and Masonic law does not undertake to give a technical definition of treason. This is a political question for the civil authorities to determine and it may be safely left to the decision of the courts.

Ques. 194. A man petitions a lodge for the degrees and is rejected. One year later he petitions again. The petition was referred and the committee reported, but the Master continues to postpone the spreading of the ballot. How long can the Master postpone action on the petition?

Answer—The law contemplates that the ballot shall be spread as soon as the committee's report is due and has been made, and it is the Master's duty to dispatch the business of the lodge with due diligence and celerity, but there is no law which enables a lodge to discipline its Master for nonperformance of duty, except through the intervention of the Grand Master. As the Master of a lodge is to a large degree "a law unto himself," it is the more important that none but "good men and true" be elected to the East.

Ques. 196. Can a Master take cognizance of an objection filed before the ballot is spread on a petition.

Answer—An objection filed before the ballot is taken has no force. In fact, it is only a protest, and the would-be objector should be so informed by the Master.

The objection is to initiation and is applicable only after election.

Ques. 197. Is the book entitled "The Lost Word" indorsed by the Grand Lodge? In other words, does the Grand Lodge put the stamp of approval on books devoted to Masonry?

Answer—The book referred to in this question has never received any indorsement from the Grand Lodge. It is not the province of the Grand Lodge to officially recognize any miscellaneous books on Masonry. The Grand Lodge has authorized a monitor and a book of ceremonials and condemned all alleged or pretended exposés. [See G. L. Proceedings 1905, pp. 36 and 109.]

[To our correspondent who feels aggrieved at our answer to question No. 197 and thinks it contains a "sting" and does injustice to a learned and worthy brother, we would say that we had no intention to write anything unkind or harsh; nor do we think the circumstances warrant the conclusion he reaches. If he will refer to the question, he will see that we were asked to state the attitude of our Grand Lodge toward a certain book and toward Masonic books in general. We replied specifically as to the book named and to cover the case of all similar inquiries that might with equal propriety arise regarding a hundred other books, made a general answer and added that the only action our Grand Lodge has taken on the book question was to indorse a Monitor and a Book of Ceremonials and to condemn all ciphers or exposés. We cited the page where a record of this action may be found and any one who will turn to it will find full justification for our statement, which was entirely general and in no sense personal.

The CHRONICLER'S opinion of the book in question was not asked for nor expressed. If the author or publisher of a book on any Masonic subject wants the CHRONICLER'S judgment upon its merits, let him pursue the usual course, by sending a copy of the book to the general editor for review.]

Ques. 198. What can be done for a brother, who is a member of a lodge in another state, but who came here so soon after joining that he had no time to post up sufficiently to enable him to bear a rigid examination.

Answer—Let him procure from his lodge a receipt for dues, or a certificate of good standing in the lodge, and then have some friend and brother who can vouch for

his identity and general good character accompany him to a regular lodge and ask for a committee to examine him as to his Masonic knowledge. The committee would give proper consideration to the circumstances, and if he possessed such Masonic information as an intelligent man would necessarily acquire in receiving the degrees in a regular lodge, they would probably pass him, provided he retained in his memory certain essential points. If he failed to satisfy the committee, he would be obliged to wait till he could go back for instruction or till the arrival of some brother from his lodge who could pass examination and vouch for him.

Ques. 199. Can a man be made a Mason "at sight"?

Ques. 200. What are the ceremonies necessary to make a Mason "at sight"?

Ques. 201. Has the Grand Master of Masons of Illinois the power to make a Mason "at sight"?

Answer—Any adequate or satisfactory answer to these questions must necessarily depend upon the interpretation or meaning that is given to the terms used. If by "making a Mason at sight" is meant a summary process by which *all* preliminaries are eliminated and a man is declared to be a full-fledged member of the institution instantly, and literally, at sight, then we must answer unhesitatingly that no such power exists anywhere in Masonry or within the boundaries or restraints of the fundamental principles of the ancient craft. We doubt whether any thoughtful and well informed Mason of any experience has ever claimed that such power exists anywhere, and we also doubt whether any one in these days has attempted to exercise this so-called prerogative in this *literal* way.

If, however, the phrase is used merely to indicate the right to eliminate or shorten such parts of the usual and regular steps for entrance into the fraternity as are created or regulated by modern law or usage, then we as unhesitatingly answer that this power or prerogative inheres in every Grand Master and that it has often been exercised in person or by the issuance of dispensation.

There has been a deal of riff-raff rot and balderdash spoken and written on this subject of making Masons at sight and the end is not yet, because the question as to just how much of this matter is fundamental and unchangeable and how far it is subject to regulation by law is a subject upon which Masons differ in opinion and one which is properly open to discussion.

All well informed Masons who have given the question any thought along the lines already indicated will readily concede that the term "making a Mason at sight" is somewhat elastic, and that these words have no rigid, fixed or clearly defined meaning. It must also be conceded that much discussion has arisen from the various interpretations and practices that have taken place in different localities in connection with this so-called rite, and that still more confusion has grown out of alleged occurrences that probably never were enacted. It may serve to throw a little light on the matter if we briefly recapitulate some of the well known facts that have a bearing upon the subject.

Every Mason understands that in the ordinary routine of making Masons there are certain preliminary essentials, and certain regular steps or developments in the proceedings. Some of these pertain to the fundamental principles of the institution and are sometimes called *landmarks*, because they are immovable, while others are regulated by law and differ slightly in different jurisdictions. These requirements include such things as inclination (or free will), qualification (mental, moral and physical), recommendation, petition, investigation, election, initiation, instruction, promotion and fruition, all of which receive attention in due course and some which require time for proper consideration.

If the indispensable requisites, such as physical or moral qualification, voluntary petition, or assent to the fundamental principle that "no person can be regularly made a Mason in any regular lodge without previous notice and due inquiry into his character" are admitted to be landmarks, then we must concede that no man has the power to do away with the requirements, and the idea of making Masons literally *at sight* goes "glimmering."

In other words, Grand Masters cannot abrogate the fundamental principles of Masonry, though they may issue dispensations setting aside the requirements that have no other basis than law. They may shorten the time for investigation, instruction or promotion, and to that extent they become factors in "making Masons at sight," in a *limited* way, and this is all the legitimate power they possess in this direction. Grand Masters in Illinois have frequently issued dispensations of the kind above referred to, but Illinois has never achieved the malodorous distinction of really making Masons "at sight," nor have any of her Grand Masters attempted to

wipe out the fundamental requirements of proper physical and moral qualifications, unanimous election, nor any of the other prerequisites for membership that rest upon the ancient landmarks, and we trust none of them ever will.

Grand Masters in other jurisdictions may have different opinions as to what the fundamental and unchangeable requirements are, and they may render different decisions respecting these and their own prerogatives, but all will agree that no Grand Master can remove or abrogate a landmark, and all loyal Masons will unite in deprecating the sensational advertising and fanfaronade that seizes upon the press and thoughtless members of the fraternity when some slight departure from the usual routine is permitted, and when this is made the occasion for proclaiming and exploiting a grand "sight-making" performance. This is particularly obnoxious to all true lovers of the ancient and honorable fraternity when the exhibit centers around a man of especial prominence in polities or other pursuits, and when Masonry is thereby made to appear to "run after" an individual. It is from such occasions that most of the talk about "making Masons at sight" arises. When this sort of thing is permitted or promoted by Masonic officials for personal renown or aggrandizement (as occasionally happens, more's the pity), it shows that for some inscrutable reason Divine Providence sometimes permits very small men to occupy high positions, and affords proof that hero worship, tuft hunting and toadyism have a foothold even in Masonry and among those who might reasonably be expected to have too much regard for the dignity, decorum and reputation of the ancient institution to lend themselves to such arrant flunkism.

[The editor of the Questions and Answers Department is surprised at the letter published in the current number of *THE CHRONICLER*, and fraternally asks the good brother to take another and a broader look at the situation. We received a number of questions upon the general proposition of "making Masons at sight." From these we selected three which pretty well covered the various aspects of the subject and which seemed to embody the points of greatest interest to the craft. In our reply we intended to give such suggestions and information as would be of service to those making the inquiries and to others who might be studying the subject. We aimed to treat the matter in an entirely gen-

eral way and from a purely impersonal standpoint, and did not mention any names, dates or places, though our experience has brought to our knowledge several cases, to any one of which our remarks would be as applicable as to another. Our correspondent mentions a recent specific case, to which he thinks our criticisms of the practice apply. If he can show that what we said hits a particular case, it proves the merit of our position, and we need only say it is "so much the worse" for the case he refers to. We are quite willing that any one shall wear the garment we made, if he finds that it fits him.]

Ques. 202. When a member announces in open meeting that he balloted on a petition contrary to his intentions or under a misapprehension, does he not violate the law prohibiting him from divulging the nature of his ballot?

Answer—In a narrow and technical sense this may be a violation of the letter of the law, but in a broad sense it is not a violation of its spirit. The same authority that made the general law, also made a specific exception and carefully defined the conditions under which the exception is applicable.

Ques. 203. Can visitors be present at a Masonic trial?

Answer—Visitors may be present at a Masonic trial, if no member of the lodge objects, but it is better taste for visitors to absent themselves when unpleasant matters, especially affecting the members of the lodge, are under consideration, and the Master may, with entire propriety, politely indicate that this condition exists.

Ques. 204. Is it contrary to Masonic law to use the word "Masonic" in connection with a relief or benefit society?

Answer—When membership in a society secures specific relief or benefits on condition of making certain payments, the society becomes an insurance organization, and it would be contrary to our law to give it the name "Masonic."

Ques. 205. Is exemption from dues on account of old age illegal?

Answer—It is, but dues which have accumulated against any member may be remitted by vote of the lodge if he is unable to pay.

Ques. 206. Does the Grand Lodge of Illinois recognize the Grand Lodge of Sweden? If not, are the mem-

bers of the craft hailing from that country to be treated as clandestine?

Answer—The Grand Lodge of Illinois does not recognize the Grand Lodge of Sweden. The attitude of our Grand Lodge is that the Grand Lodge of Sweden is “deemed to be without authority in Symbolic or Craft Masonry, and the members of its obedience ineligible to visit or affiliate with lodges in Illinois.” It is a little milder to refer to it as irregular than to call it clandestine, though practically it comes to the same thing.

Ques. 207. If two Master Masons who have sat in lodge together chance to meet a third brother on the street, and one of the former knows the third brother to be a Master Mason in good standing who has sat in lodge with him, can he vouch for the former then and there, and is this considered legal information sufficient to his gaining admission into a lodge?

Answer—We think that section 7, article 19, part 2, of our Grand Lodge by-laws clearly answers this question in the affirmative. A and B, who know each other to be Master Masons, meet C, whom A knows to be a Master Mason, and who knows A to be a Master Mason. Under such circumstances A can make B and C known to each other as Master Masons by plainly stating to each in the presence of the other, that he vouches for the other as a Master Mason. This constitutes legal information, and enables either to vouch for the other in lodge.

Ques. 208. A man petitioned a Chicago lodge a couple of years ago and was rejected. He subsequently went to Scotland on a visit, and while there received the three degrees. He has returned to his home in Chicago and is now visiting lodges here. What can we or should we do about it?

Answer—If all members of lodges would treat men who steal their way into Masonry in this manner as irregular and clandestine, and exclude them from visiting their lodges by objection, as they have a perfect right to do, the “putting it over” process would become unpopular and we could then sooner shame Scotland into making her practices conform to those of other jurisdictions.

[A brother who thinks our reply to No. 208 (March 20) severe and unfair to Scotland, appears not to have read either the question or answer very carefully, nor does he seem to have made himself at all familiar with

the situation. We condemned a condition which makes it possible for a man who fears he cannot be elected to the honors of Masonry at home and by those who know him or who has actually been rejected by his fellow citizens to reach the coveted status during a brief visit to Scotland, and who then comes home in a mood to boast that he has put it over on his neighbors, and is now a "Mason in spite of them." Does our correspondent know of any better way to treat such cases than the one we suggested, or does he desire to undertake the defense of a custom so repellent to the principles of Masonry as interpreted in Illinois?

Would he be satisfied to be represented in our legislature by a man elected by the votes of people residing in Scotland? Any one who studies the principles involved will conclude that our criticisms were very mild as compared with what might justly be said.

Ques. 209. At the time a ballot is taken on a petition for the degrees in Masonry, is it obligatory on the part of the Master to read the petition in full, or, on the request of a member, state whether the petitioner had previously petitioned and the action of the lodge on the petition?

Answer—When the petition is presented to the lodge it must be read in full, or at least all the material facts as to age, occupation, previous application, etc., must be given to the lodge. There is no written law which specifically requires the Master to repeat this information when the ballot is taken, but the almost, if not quite, universal custom in all well governed lodges, as well as the Master's duty to the brethren, does require him to furnish the members present with all material facts bearing upon the case. The members present who were not in lodge when the petition was presented are as much entitled to know about a previous action on the case as the other members. A Master who declines to answer a member's question on the subject, in effect invites a black ball by making it appear that there is something to conceal. Complete frankness among brethren is a pretty good rule.

Ques. 210. What are the rights and duties of a Master in determining what questions shall be brought before the lodge or discussed, or in instructing the Secretary what communications addressed to the lodge shall be read to the brethren? I refer particularly to

such things as appeals for lodge contributions to general charities, or for monuments, hospitals, etc.

Answer—It is the Master's privilege and duty to decide what communications shall be read to the lodge, and what subjects may be discussed, and he should instruct the Secretary not to present any matter without his knowledge and consent. In deciding these matters he should exercise a wise discretion and use his best judgment. He should carefully consider the circumstances of the lodge and the worthiness of the cause, always acting to the utmost of his ability for the interests of Masonry and the good of his lodge. The responsibility is his and he should courageously and righteously assume it, remembering that no one except the Grand Master can call him to account, and that the latter will naturally feel that the Master is the best judge of the financial condition of the lodge and of what will best promote its peace and harmony, and that he will not be likely to interfere unless the Master's action is unduly arbitrary or unreasonable.

Ques. 211. Would a report of the blue lodge be considered complete if the first two years were omitted in its compilation?

Answer—We assume that this question refers to the annual returns which section 1, article 24, part 2, Grand Lodge by-laws, requires lodges to make to the Grand Lodge. This section provides that besides certain items that are definitely enumerated, the returns must include "such other matters as may be required by the blank forms." A reference to the blanks which the Grand Secretary sends out from year to year will answer the question. Let us ask our questioner whether he knows of any red, black, gray, green or yellow Masonic lodges?

Ques. 212. Can a lodge receive the petition of an applicant who was rejected by a lodge not having jurisdiction?

Answer—It can, but the applicant should state the fact of rejection in his petition, so that his statement will conform to the truth and so that the lodge, and not the petitioner, may decide whether the lodge first petitioned had jurisdiction.

Ques. 213. After having refused a waiver of jurisdiction, what time must elapse before the request can again be acted upon?

Answer—If the waiver is for an original petitioner for degrees, the request can be renewed after the lapse

of six months. In other cases, it may be renewed at pleasure, though not oftener than three times in any one year.

Ques. 214. A suspended member of a lodge dies. His family offers the lodge payment of all arrearages in order to place him in good standing. Can the lodge receive the same?

Answer—It cannot. In such cases the Masonic rule is that the tree must lie where it falls. The law distinctly says that “the status of a brother in his lodge cannot be changed after his death.”

Ques. 215. Has an Entered Apprentice a right to petition another lodge in the same jurisdiction for the remaining degrees? In other words, can a lodge receive a petition for the Fellow Craft’s and Master’s degrees from an Entered Apprentice who received his degree in a lodge of concurrent jurisdiction?

Answer—We do not know of any law that denies him the right to make such petition, but the second lodge could not receive it without a waiver of personal jurisdiction from the first lodge, and he could not be advanced in the second lodge till regularly elected therein by unanimous ballot.

Ques. 216. Has a Master of a lodge the power to appoint a committee to examine a visitor on a day when there is no communication of the lodge? To explain: A visitor appears at a lodge hall, when the brethren are being instructed but not regularly convened, and asks for a committee to establish his Masonic affiliation. Can the Master appoint such committee?

Answer—We do not think a Master’s discretion in appointing a committee or designating brethren to test a brother’s Masonic standing and qualifications to visit is limited by the day of the week or to lodge meetings, but that he may exercise this prerogative whenever occasion arises, and suitable brethren and opportunities are present.

Ques. 217. Can a Master of a lodge deputize any member of his lodge as proxy to represent the lodge in Grand Lodge when he is unable to be present, and when both Wardens are in attendance on Grand Lodge?

Answer—The Master may give his written proxy to any member of his lodge in good standing, to act in his stead at a meeting of the Grand Lodge, and this proxy should be filed with and recorded by the Committee on Credentials. The brother so appointed would have the

same voting power that the Master would have, under like conditions; that is, he would have one vote when both Wardens were present, two votes when only one Warden was present and three votes when he alone was present. The Master cannot deprive the Wardens of their share in the representation, when they are present in person or by proxy.

Ques. 218. Has the Grand Master or the Board of Grand Examiners the power to change the ritualistic work?

Answer—Article 15 of the Grand Lodge Constitution says that “the Grand Master shall provide for thorough instruction in the work and lectures already established by this Grand Lodge.” He does this in part through the appointment of a Board of Grand Examiners, whose province it is to *teach* the work, but not *change* it. The Grand Master has the same power to change the work that he has to exercise any other function of the Grand Lodge, when the latter is not in session, and no more. Unfortunately, the temptation to exercise this power in the matter of work has proved so strong that Grand Masters have not always been able to resist it, particularly when they have been under pressure from the Board of Grand Examiners.

Ques. 219. Are there two Grand Lodges of Masons in Ohio, and if so, how are they designated, and which of them does the Grand Lodge of Illinois recognize as being the regular Grand Lodge? Why do not other Grand Lodges step in and compel these two Grand Lodges to reconcile their differences?

Answer—The Grand Lodge of Ohio, recognized as regular and genuine by the Grand Lodge of Illinois, is known as the Grand Lodge of Ohio, F. & A. M., and is about one hundred years old. There is another body in Ohio, made up largely of Masons who seceded from the regular body about eighteen years ago and formed what is called the Grand Lodge of Ohio, A. F. & A. M. They have procured a charter from the state and put great emphasis upon their being a legally incorporated body and upon their relations to the so-called higher degrees of Masonry. The Masons of other jurisdictions cannot control Masonic matters in Ohio, because each Grand Lodge is sovereign in its own territory and within the landmarks manages its own affairs, without outside interference, save moral suasion. Illinois gives its moral support to the original body and in this is joined by

nearly all the Grand Lodges of the United States. This quiet but potent influence will undoubtedly prevail in finally submerging the seceders.

Ques. 220. Has a lodge power to reinstate a suspended member to good standing in the fraternity, leaving him unaffiliated?

Answer—It has. See Sec. 5, article 10, part 3, Grand Lodge by-laws.

Ques. 221. Is it necessary for Secretaries to give notice to other lodges in the same jurisdiction of the receipt of a petition for affiliation?

Answer—The law, which requires Secretaries to give notice to other lodges in the same jurisdiction of the receipt of petitions for degrees, does not apply to petitions for membership by affiliation.

Ques. 222. Has one Chicago lodge or a member thereof a right to prefer charges against a member of another lodge?

Answer—Any Mason may formulate charges against any other Mason, but it is at the option of the lodge before whom the charges are brought to decide whether the charges shall be received and the accused be placed on trial. Whenever it is practicable, it is better that charges be brought in the lodge of which the accused is a member, and by some member of that lodge. Usually, when there is a case deserving attention, the accuser can, by proper representation, secure vote of the lodge to instruct the Junior Warden to bring charges.

Ques. 223. Kindly explain the meaning of the following quotation from section 9, article 8, part 3, Grand Lodge by-laws: “If a brother has been dimitted from a lodge by the act of the Grand Lodge, he cannot afterwards be disciplined for non-payment of arrearages existing at the time of dimission.” In other words, can the Grand Lodge order a lodge to issue a dimit to a member who is in arrears for dues?

Answer—The clause of the law above quoted is intended to apply only in the very rare cases, when, through neglect or oversight, a brother has been permitted to act with a lodge U. D. and to become a charter member of a new lodge, without having paid his dues in full to his old lodge. If the law relating to the formation of new lodges is fully complied with, this condition can never exist.

Ques. 224. Can the Secretary of a lodge keep the

individual accounts of members of his lodge in a loose-leaf ledger?

Answer—In 1906 the Grand Lodge approved a decision by the Grand Master, that the loose-leaf style of book is inconsistent with the requirements, and that its use is necessarily prohibited for keeping the records of a lodge. We understand from this that the accounts cannot be kept in a loose-leaf ledger.

Ques. 225. A man was expelled by his lodge and no appeal was taken. After the lapse of three years the Grand Lodge restores him to membership. Would the action of the Grand Lodge restore him to membership in the lodge?

Answer—It would not. The Grand Lodge does not restore to membership, but to good standing in the fraternity only.

Ques. 226. Has the Master of a lodge a right to demand a member's reasons for objecting to the initiation of a candidate?

Answer—He has not. The law clearly provides that the objector's reasons shall not be demanded by the Master or the lodge, nor shall the identity of the objector be revealed. The objector is more secure in his position if he does not give any reasons, because if he should do so, it might be held that the lodge would then have a voice in determining whether the reasons were valid.

Ques. 227. A lodge waived jurisdiction over a petitioner for degrees. At the next meeting a motion was made to rescind the former action in order to refuse the waiver. The Master ruled it out of order. Was his ruling proper?

Answer—The Master was right. Section 13, article 13, part 2, Grand Lodge by-laws, says: "Action waiving jurisdiction cannot be rescinded."

Ques. 228. A lodge suspended a man for non-payment of dues. Later he paid up all arrearages and asked for reinstatement. The lodge refused to reinstate him. Must the lodge return all moneys paid to it at the time he petitioned for reinstatement?

Answer—If the lodge does not do anything for him in the way of reinstatement, it must, according to the provisions of the law, return the money he paid when he petitioned for reinstatement. But the law gives the lodge the option whether it will reinstate him to membership in the lodge or to good standing in the fraternity.

only, leaving him unaffiliated. This latter clause appears to give the lodge the right to retain the money if it accords him either of the two favors.

Ques. 229. Would a Master of a lodge be justified in appointing a committee to examine a visitor hailing from another state, who presents as documentary evidence a receipt for dues in the Shrine?

Answer—A lodge of Ancient Craft Masons does not know any Masonic degrees except those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, and has no Masonic knowledge of Shriners, Knights or Bazi Bazooks, consequently, documents from bodies of these good people would have no official weight or standing in a lodge. There is no law in Illinois that absolutely requires the presentation of written or documentary evidence as a preliminary to the appointment of a committee to examine a visitor.

Ques. 230. When a Master places a petition for degrees before the lodge for ballot, is it legal for him to announce the names of the committee of investigation?

Answer—It is entirely legal and proper, and is also the duty of the Master, to give the brethren full information before the ballot, as to the identity of the petitioner, the names of the brethren recommending him, the names of the committee of investigation, the nature of their report, and the degree of unanimity of the report.

Ques. 231. When it comes to the knowledge of a District Deputy Grand Master that a lodge is not complying with the Grand Lodge by-laws, is it his duty to interfere and see that the laws are obeyed?

Answer—It is the duty of a District Deputy Grand Master to report to the Grand Master any infraction of law that comes to his knowledge. He may advise the lodge to amend its course, but the law does not give him the authority to compel obedience, though the Grand Master may give him such authority on learning the facts. It is safer for lodges to heed the advice of the District Deputy Grand Master.

Ques. 232. Is it any part of the duty or prerogative of a District Deputy Grand Master or a Grand Lecturer to take an active part in or to try to influence the election of Grand Lodge officers?

Answer—Personally, District Deputy Grand Masters and Grand Lecturers have the same right to entertain and express opinions about the election of Grand Lodge officers that is possessed by other members of the fra-

ternity, and no more. Officially, it is no part of their duty to interfere in or meddle with elections. The fact that neither of them has a vote in Grand Lodge elections indicates that they have no responsibilities in this direction and that, therefore, it would be impertinent for them to volunteer any advice or to try to exert any pressure in this line. Grand Lodge elections are in the hands of the representatives of the lodges. They do nearly all the voting and they should manfully and intelligently take the responsibility. Let them fully and independently inform themselves, through their own methods, as to the merit of aspirants for office and then they can very properly ignore or even resent all unsought influence or interference.

Ques. 233. When a petitioner for degrees fails to properly designate his occupation, giving only "clerk," "foreman," or some such illegal description, and the Secretary and members of the committee of investigation have personal knowledge of the petitioner and his occupation, can the petition be amended by one of them, or should it be referred to the petitioner for correction?

Answer—It should be referred to the petitioner for correction, for at least two very good reasons: First—No one has a legal or moral right to change a written document after it has been signed, without the knowledge and consent of the signer. Second—The candidate should learn at the earliest possible moment that Masonry expects complete truth and the utmost candor from its votaries, and that it requires exact information about its candidates.

Ques. 234. Has a lodge the power to restore an expelled member to membership or to the rights and privileges of the fraternity?

Answer—This question has been answered in substance in a previous number and the law is very plain on the subject, but we will give a synopsis of our understanding of it. There are two steps necessary to restore an expelled Mason to good standing in the fraternity. First—He must ask the lodge from which he was expelled to recommend him to the Grand Lodge for restoration. If the action of the lodge is favorable on this request, the second step is for the Grand Lodge to act on his petition. If the action of the Grand Lodge is favorable, it will give him a certificate of good standing in the fraternity, but this leaves him unaffiliated. If he desires lodge membership, a third step is necessary, viz.:

A petition to some lodge (either his former lodge or another) for membership. He would deposit his certificate of good standing from the Grand Lodge with his petition, and he could be elected only by unanimous ballot. It will thus be seen that neither the lodge nor the Grand Lodge can restore him without the assistance of the other.

Ques. 235. A Secretary of a lodge leaves town and during his absence the Master appoints a brother to act in his stead. Inasmuch as the Secretary does not intend to return at all, what length of time should elapse before the office is declared vacant? Is a new election necessary, or can the Secretary pro tem. continue to act in that capacity for the balance of the year, signing documents, letters, receipts, etc., in his own name as pro tem.?

Answer—If the Secretary removes from the jurisdiction of the lodge, he should present his resignation to the lodge and a vacancy would exist when the resignation was accepted, or a vacancy might be declared as soon as it became definitely known that his absence was permanent. The vacancy could be filled by a special election, held by authority of a dispensation from the Grand Master, and if the vacancy is for as much as three months it would be better, as a general rule, to hold a special election, though no absolute rule can be fixed, because circumstances vary in different cases. In the absence of the Secretary, the Master fills the place by appointment at each meeting and the Secretary pro tem. signs the necessary documents and correspondence as such, by direction of the Master. The Master cannot appoint a permanent Secretary pro tem., because the actual Secretary may turn up at any time.

Ques. 236. Can a member of blue lodge A, also a member of a chapter or commandery, Eastern Star chapter or any similar lodge, affiliated with Masonry, having met in any of these lodges outside of a blue lodge a brother belonging to blue lodge B, could he vouch for his brother to his own blue lodge or any other blue lodge, not having met in same or been vouched for by a member of respective blue lodge?

Answer—This question is definitely answered in section 7, article 19, part 2, Grand Lodge by-laws, where it says: “No Mason can legally acquire the necessary information to vouch for another by sitting with him in any other body than a lodge of Ancient Craft Masons.” The form of this interrogatory prompts us to

say that, in spite of a very prevalent idea to the contrary among young Masons, there is no affiliation between lodges and other bodies that carries with it the power to vouch for visitors, and no occasion to use the word "blue" in describing a regular body of Ancient Craft Masons. Blue appears six times in this question, but could be entirely omitted without loss.

Ques. 237. When a member applies for a conditional dimit from his lodge, is he required to designate the lodge he intends to petition for membership?

Answer—The law which provides for the issue of transfer certificates (or what is here called conditional dimits) does not require the applicant to state to what lodge he expects to transfer his membership. A form for such certificate is given in the new edition of the Blue Book (form 15, page 159). It should be observed, however, that the transfer of membership cannot take place under this method when the two lodges are in the same city or town.

Ques. 238. I read in today's issue of THE CHRONICLER, "Questions and Answers," where you hold that a Secretary cannot keep the private or individual accounts of members in a loose-leaf ledger. I am of the same opinion, but how about the number of lodges who use the card system? I think the loose-leaf superior to the card. The latter can get lost or strayed much easier than the former.

Answer—Our answer to Question No. 224 was based on the understanding that the Grand Master's decision, approved by the Grand Lodge, was to the effect that all lodge records and accounts must be kept in bound books. If this is a correct view of the decision, then the card method is as effectually prohibited by it as the loose-leaf system. It seems to us that every member of a lodge has a right to expect that everything pertaining to his record or standing as a Mason, including his financial account with the lodge, shall be kept in substantial books of a permanent form. If the Secretary chooses to supplement these by temporary memoranda or cards, purely for his own convenience, probably no harm would be done, but we doubt whether any responsible authority would permit such a system to supplant or abolish the good, old-fashioned books and methods. There is some difficulty in determining just what the law is upon this subject, because of the uncertainty about the meaning of the words "records of the lodge"

as used in the decision referred to. If, as some contend, the record-book whose contents are submitted to and passed upon by the lodge, is the only legal or recognized *record* (and if properly kept, it contains all details of a historical or financial nature), then the decision might be construed to apply to this one book alone, and all additional books or cards, being auxiliary or subsidiary might be left to the discretion or convenience of the Secretary or the lodge.

Ques. 239. Are the fraternal relations between the Grand Lodge of Illinois and the Canadian lodges such that an Illinois lodge would be justified in asking a lodge in Canada to confer the degrees on a candidate who, having been elected in a Chicago lodge, removed to Canada before the degrees were conferred on him?

Answer—As the Grand Lodges of Illinois and Canada are in harmonious fraternal relations, it would be just as proper for an Illinois lodge to ask a lodge in Canada to confer degrees for it as it would be to ask a lodge in some other jurisdiction in the United States to do the same thing. It should be borne in mind, however, that some grand jurisdictions insist that correspondence between lodges in different jurisdictions must be carried on through the respective Grand Masters.

Ques. 240. A number of Masons residing in a small town near Chicago are contemplating organizing a new lodge. In order to get the consent of three lodges it will be necessary to apply to two Chicago lodges. Must the application be made to the two nearest Chicago lodges, or can they apply to any lodge in Chicago?

Answer—To organize a lodge near to but outside of Chicago, consent must be obtained from the three nearest lodges, whether within or without the corporate limits, but if the nearest lodges are within the city, the consent of the outside lodges whose territorial jurisdiction is abridged must also be obtained.

Ques. 241. A man petitioned for the degrees and was elected. The Secretary sent him several notices to appear for initiation. He failed to appear or answer the Secretary's letters. Is it necessary to give him notice of the expiration of his election if he fails to appear within one year?

Answer—In this case we think the lodge has done all that is required, without giving notice of the expiration of the year, although it might be well to call the candidate's attention to the law bearing upon the subject.

The matter can be attended to when the candidate gets ready to proceed, if ever that time comes.

Ques. 242. Can a lodge take cognizance of charges of un-Masonic conduct against a suspended member, which, if sustained, would impose a greater penalty than the one he is undergoing?

Answer—This question is definitely answered in the affirmative by section 4, article 1, part 3, Grand Lodge by-laws, reading as follows: “A suspended Mason charged with un-Masonic conduct, which, if established, would justify a greater punishment than he is undergoing, may be arraigned for trial and, if found guilty, adequate punishment be inflicted.”

Ques. 243. Is there any law prohibiting members of different lodges living in a neighborhood from organizing a mutual benevolent society similar to the low twelve clubs now in existence?

Answer—There is nothing in the Masonic law to prevent Masons from joining in the formation of benevolent clubs or societies as freely as other men may do, but the law does prohibit the use of the Masonic name to promote the birth, growth or interests of such clubs or societies, even when their purposes are charitable.

Ques. 244. A visitor requests a committee to establish his identity and presents a receipt for dues. The name and number of his lodge corresponds with a name and number in the official list of regular lodges. However, the designation “F. & A. M.” appears on the receipt for dues, whereas the official list gives it “A. F. & A. M.” The Master refused to appoint the committee. Did he act legally in so doing?

Answer—The responsibility for the admission of visitors is upon the Master, who has both the legal right and moral duty to guard his lodge carefully and who has agreed that no visitors shall be received without satisfactory evidence that they have been initiated in a regular lodge. If the Master has any doubt about the regularity or satisfactory character of the evidence, whether documentary, visible or ritualistic, he should give his lodge the benefit of the doubt by refusing admittance. Visitation is a privilege and is always subordinate to the superior right of the member. The discrepancy in the receipt mentioned in this question, though slight, might be important, especially in visitors coming from Ohio, where the Grand Lodge recognized by Illinois as regular

is known as F. & A. M., while the other Grand Lodge takes the name A. F. & A. M.

Ques. 245. A man is suspended for non-payment of dues. He makes application for reinstatement. The lodge refused to reinstate him. Can he appeal to the Grand Lodge, or must he abide by the decision of the lodge?

Answer—The law leaves the reinstatement of a suspended brother in the control of the lodge and does not provide for any appeal to the Grand Lodge. In 1903 a suspended brother, whose lodge had repeatedly refused to reinstate him, petitioned the Grand Lodge for relief, but the Grand Lodge declined “to take from said lodge one of its most sacred privileges.”

Ques. 246. A man received the Entered Apprentice degree. A member who was present was appointed to give him instruction. A friend of the Entered Apprentice, not known to the instructor, wanted to assist in the posting and requested the instructor to first examine him and vouch for his being a Master Mason. Can the man appointed to do the posting examine the friend and, being satisfied that he is a Master Mason, permit the friend to assist in the instruction?

Answer—The instructor should acquaint the Master with the facts, and, having obtained his permission, he can proceed as indicated.

Ques. 247. A member of a Chicago lodge is intending traveling abroad and is desirous of securing a certificate attesting the fact that his lodge is regular and working under the laws of the Grand Lodge of Illinois. To whom must he apply for said certificate and what fee is charged?

Answer—His lodge will, upon request, furnish him a certificate of membership in the lodge, and the Secretary will forward same to the Grand Secretary, who will, without charge, certify to the regularity of the lodge.

Ques. 248. Is it proper for the Master of a lodge to grant permission to a visitor to leave the lodge room during the progress of a trial?

Answer—It is entirely proper for the Master to permit a brother to retire from a trial if he is there purely as a visitor, and it would also be entirely proper for the visitor to stay away from the lodge if he knew that the unpleasant experience of a trial was on hand.

Ques. 249. Can a man who is not a naturalized citizen of the United States, but who has resided in Chi-

cago two years, petition for the degrees in a lodge in this jurisdiction?

Answer—A foreign-born man who is a resident and otherwise qualified, though not a naturalized citizen, may petition a lodge. The law expressly provides “to be naturalized is not a prerequisite qualification of a candidate, either for initiation or affiliation.”

Ques. 250. A brother is in arrears with his dues and pays no attention to the Secretary’s letters. The lodge is going to act on him according to the by-laws. Now, has the Master the right to call a secret ballot, a rising vote, or by the ancient sign of a Master Mason? Which one is right? The blue book says it takes a two-thirds vote, but it says nothing of how it should be taken.

Answer—If our inquirer will read the closing paragraph of section 5, article 8, part 3, Grand Lodge by-laws, he will find that the blue book definitely answers his question, by stating that the two-thirds vote necessary to suspend a brother for non-payment of dues must be by ballot. The general rule is that the vote which determines the status of a person in the lodge is always by ballot. This holds good in election for degrees or membership, in suspension or expulsion, and in reinstatement. The ballot does not necessarily mean the use of balls or cubes, but can be taken by paper ballots, written or printed, but must be secret.

Ques. 251. One member of a lodge desires to prefer charges against another and has the charges drawn according to Grand Lodge laws. The Master refused to permit the charges to be read. Did the Master act legally?

Answer—The Master may use his discretion by refusing to entertain charges that are so vague or indefinite as to leave doubt as to what is intended. If the charges are properly drawn, in accordance with law, it is the Master’s duty to place the question of entertaining them before the lodge. If he refuses to do this, an appeal to the Grand Master would bring him to time.

Ques. 252. When one lodge requests another to waive jurisdiction over a petitioner and the lodge receiving the request fails to answer, can the lodge making the request proceed to act on the petition?

Answer—If the requested lodge really has jurisdiction in the case, the requesting lodge cannot proceed until a waiver has been obtained. If the lodge refuses to act upon the matter, complaint should be made to the Grand

Master, who would inquire into the reason for such lack of courtesy.

Ques. 253. Is it one of the requirements that a lodge under dispensation confer the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason before it can receive a charter?

Answer—The law is that “no charter shall issue to a lodge under dispensation until it shall have conferred the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason in manner and form as prescribed by the laws and regulations of this Grand Lodge.”

Ques. 254. Is it contrary to law for a non-affiliated Mason to unite with the brethren of a lodge and attend a funeral—that is, by being properly clothed and joining in the procession?

Answer—There is no law which prevents a non-affiliated Mason in good standing, who is vouched for, from participating in the funeral services of a deceased brother.

Ques. 255. After a lodge has been granted a charter by the Grand Lodge, can it hold meetings for the transaction of business or conferring degrees before it is constituted?

Answer—The law distinctly provides that “every newly chartered lodge shall be duly constituted and its officers properly installed by the Grand Master or his special representative, assisted by an occasional Grand Lodge, before said new lodge can work or do business under its charter.”

Ques. 256. A member of an investigating committee fails to report and the Master discharges him and appoints another member to act. Is it necessary that thirty days elapse from the date of the last appointment before the petition can be acted upon?

Answer—Action upon the petition cannot be taken till the next stated meeting after the appointment of the new member of the committee has been made in open lodge.

Ques. 257. Can a member of a lodge in another jurisdiction become a charter member of a new lodge in Illinois?

Answer—A brother holding membership in a lodge in another jurisdiction cannot become a member of a new lodge in Illinois until he has obtained a dimit from his lodge or regularly withdrawn therefrom.

Ques. 258. In your answer to question No. 250 you

refer to the law which definitely prescribes that the vote to suspend a brother for non-payment of dues must be taken by ballot. Now, in case the Master, in ignorance or disregard of the law, or through inadvertence, should permit the vote to be taken openly, and upon seeing that two-thirds of the members present had voted in the affirmative, should declare the delinquent suspended, what course could a member who felt aggrieved by the action pursue in order to set the matter right?

Answer—He could call the attention of the Master to the error, and at the next stated meeting of the lodge (preferably before the minutes were approved) it would be the duty of the Master to announce to the lodge that a mistake had been made in the manner of taking the vote, that it was done contrary to law, and consequently was of no binding force, and that therefore the brother who had erroneously been declared suspended was still a member in good standing, but subject to whatever discipline the lodge might legally enact. If the Master failed to take this course, an appeal to the Grand Master would set him to rights, and would no doubt promptly result in the course here indicated, or something equivalent to it, because the Grand Master is always quick to see and provide against the evil results following the disobedience or disregard of law.

Ques. 259. Is a party who was made a life member in any lodge prior to the law revoking this custom, still a life member, or must he now pay dues like any other member; and is a life member entitled to hold any office in a lodge?

Answer—The action of the Grand Lodge cutting off the further extension of the life membership list did not interfere with the status of those who had previously been created life members, and in the absence of any action to the contrary by the constituent lodge, a life member is entitled to all the rights and privileges of any regular member. The question whether a lodge can place a regularly created life member back upon the paying list has never been answered by the Grand Lodge, though we think one lodge at least has done this.

Ques. 260. A lodge fully complied with the Grand Lodge by-laws in sending out notices to delinquent members, the second notice notifying them to appear and show cause why they should not be suspended, having been sent to all delinquents. At date set for action on the list a motion was made that action on all members

owing only one year's dues be deferred until the annual communication. Was the motion to postpone action proper and legal? In other words, would it not be legal for the Master to rule the motion out of order and take action separately on each delinquent?

Answer—We think it would be within the discretion of the Master to pursue either course. Though we prefer after notices have all been served to treat each case separately.

Ques. 261. After election and before initiation objection is made to a candidate. Should the Secretary return the fee?

Answer—The law directs that in case the initiation of a candidate is stayed by objection the fee shall be immediately returned to him.

Ques. 262. Is it possible for an Entered Apprentice who was initiated in a lodge now defunct to be advanced in a neighboring lodge? If so, what course should he pursue?

Answer—He should apply for advancement to the lodge acquiring jurisdiction over the territory.

Ques. 263. In case a lodge working under dispensation should fail to confer the degrees of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, would it be ample grounds for the Grand Lodge to refuse it a charter?

Answer—A lodge U. D. which had not conferred the three degrees would not be entitled under the law to a charter. If the incoming Grand Master was favorable he would indorse upon the dispensation a continuation thereof.

Ques. 264. Are there any Masonic lodges in Mexico City which are recognized by the Grand Lodge of the state of Illinois?

Answer—There are no lodges in Mexico which are recognized as regular by the Grand Lodge of Illinois.

Ques. 265. Where a ballot is taken by white and black balls on the reinstatement of a member suspended for non-payment of dues, is it proper for the Wardens to count the balls and announce the actual vote or should they simply announce the result without designating the number of votes cast in the affirmative and negative?

Answer—The ballots should be counted and the number voting each way should be announced to the lodge and recorded in the minutes. It is not strictly necessary in such cases that the white and black balls should be

used, nor is it necessary that the Wardens should inspect the ballot. Paper ballots may be used and the ballot counted by brethren appointed by the Master.

Ques. 266. When a Master has been guilty of violating his official obligation, to whom should complaint be made and is it necessary that the complaint be lodged during his term of office?

Answer—Complaint of official misconduct by the Master should be made to the Grand Master, and if official would necessarily be made while he was in office.

Ques. 267. Can the Grand Lodge expel or suspend a member who has never been charged, tried and convicted in his lodge?

Answer—Generally speaking, the Grand Lodge considers cases of brethren charged with Masonic offenses only on appeal from the action of a constituent lodge. The Grand Lodge exercises original jurisdiction over its own members, and in an extreme case might take original action against a lay member of the fraternity, although it seldom does this.

Ques. 268. A. says it is wrong to explain the meaning of the Masonic "G" to the uninitiated. B. claims that he is not violating his obligation by so doing, as most people who are at all familiar with the best teachings of Masonry can almost guess the significance of a capital G used so prominently. Which is right?

Answer—It is a generally safe rule to follow to say the fathers of Masonry put into the Monitors as much of the explanation of the meaning of the symbols as they considered it best to disclose to the uninitiated.

Ques. 269. The rituals of some grand jurisdictions contain a beautiful lecture when the apron is presented to the candidate. Is it legal to use these lectures in an Illinois lodge?

Answer—The law provides that it shall be the duty of the Master "to make the work and ritual practiced in his lodge conform to the standard adopted by the Grand Lodge." This makes the use of rituals of other jurisdictions differing from Illinois standard work not only subversive of uniformity, but also illegal.

Ques. 270. A man petitioned for the degrees in Masonry. After his election, in answer to an inquiry, he said he did not believe in the existence of God, and objection was entered to his initiation. Later he became a member of a church and claimed he had changed his

mind. The objection having expired, would it be proper upon his declaring his belief, to initiate him?

Answer—The Master should state the facts in open lodge at a stated meeting and give notice that in the absence of any renewal of the objection the candidate will be initiated at a future date far enough in advance to protect all rights.

Ques. 271. When a man petitions a lodge for membership, is it necessary that he state the name, number and location of the lodge of which he was last a member and also the name, number and location of the lodge in which he was made a Master Mason?

Answer—The form of petition for membership adopted by the Grand Lodge and published in the Blue Book requires that all this information should be given. We think, however, that in case it was not possible to supply it, some discretion would be allowed.

Ques. 272. Can a member make objection to the initiation or advancement of a candidate for degrees in any but his own lodge?

Answer—He can bring his objection to the attention of the Master of the other lodge, whose duty it would be to investigate very thoroughly, but he does not have the right of peremptory objection in any lodge but his own.

Ques. 273. A man was expelled by his lodge. An appeal was taken to the Grand Lodge, and the action expelling him was confirmed. He desires to make application for restoration, claiming to have sufficient evidence to warrant him in so doing. Should he apply direct to the Grand Lodge first or must he file his petition with his former lodge and receive favorable action before the matter can be reviewed by the Grand Lodge?

Answer—He should apply to his lodge to recommend him to the Grand Lodge for its favorable action. See form No. 4, page 151, new edition of the Blue Book.

Ques. 274. In case the Master should summon a delinquent for non-payment of dues to appear and show cause why he should not be suspended and the delinquent fails to appear, the summons having been personally served, can a greater penalty be inflicted than suspension for non-payment of dues?

Answer—The law clearly answers this question in the affirmative by providing that, "if a delinquent is summoned and fails to answer, upon proof that such summons has been personally served, the offense of non-payment of dues shall be held in abeyance until the

delinquent shall show cause for disobedience of summons; for which offense any Mason may be expelled after trial and conviction."

Ques. 275. A man petitioned for the degrees and was rejected. About nine months later he petitioned another lodge. The lodge received the petition and asked for a waiver of jurisdiction. The Master of the lodge having original jurisdiction ruled the request for a waiver was irregular because one year had not elapsed since the petition was rejected and ordered the Secretary to return the request. Was the ruling of the Master correct?

Answer—We think the Master's ruling was correct. The law provides that a rejected candidate for degrees may renew his application after the expiration of one year from the date of such rejection. As the original lodge could not itself receive the renewed application until after the lapse of one year it cannot give that power to any other lodge.

Ques. 276. In case a member of a committee appointed to investigate a petitioner for degrees requests further time and the Master grants the request, is it obligatory for the Master to announce in open lodge that the time had been extended?

Answer—The law does not expressly make it the duty of the Master to announce the granting of further time to the committee, but it is better and more in accord with the frankness that should characterize all the Master's acts that he should do this. It might also prevent suspicious brethren from thinking the Master was keeping something under cover or doing some "funny work."

Ques. 277. One lodge requested another to waive jurisdiction over an Entered Apprentice. The Master put the question to the lodge and it was decided in the affirmative by a majority vote and by a show of hands. Was the action of the Master legal?

Answer—The action of the Master was in accordance with the law, which says that "in cases of waiver over Entered Apprentice and Fellow Crafts the vote may be by show of hands and a majority vote is sufficient." To waive jurisdiction over original petitions or rejected candidates the vote must be by ballot and be unanimous. In all cases the application for waiver must come from a lodge and must lie over until the next stated meeting before being voted upon.

Ques. 278. A man petitioned a Chicago lodge and

was rejected. He now desires to renew his petition, but has moved out in the state. Must he obtain the consent of the lodge having territorial jurisdiction before he files his petition?

Answer—Our law provides that when a candidate, after being rejected by one lodge, removes into the jurisdiction of another, neither lodge can receive his petition without first obtaining the consent of the other granted by unanimous ballot. When the removal is to another state, courtesy would require that the same rule should prevail, if the lodge of his residence claimed jurisdiction.

Ques. 279. In some of the Chicago lodges the Secretary uses a rubber stamp signature on receipts for dues. Is this method of signing receipts legal?

Answer—We think the signature should be in writing and that it should be attested by the seal of the lodge.

Ques. 280. When a brother joins in a petition for a dispensation for a new lodge, does his membership cease in his chartered lodge when the dispensation is granted or when the charter is issued?

Answer—To become a member of a new lodge a brother must not only sign the petition for dispensation, but also the petition for charter. If he signs only the petition for dispensation he remains a member of his old lodge.

Ques. 281. Is it necessary for a candidate to be examined on entire catechism or has the Master the right to say at what point in the examination the candidate has given sufficient proof of proficiency?

Answer—Inasmuch as the decision as to the proficiency may be made by the Master, or the lodge, the Master has the technical right to make the examination long or short, but if he obeys that part of the law which says, "it is his duty to make the work and ritual of his lodge conform to the standard adopted by the Grand Lodge," he will not accept anything short of what is practiced at the schools where the authorized work is taught.

Ques. 282. Kindly inform me through your columns whether a law exists in Illinois prohibiting the improper use of badges or emblems of orders and organizations, and if not why not?

Answer—The general laws against frauds and the obtaining of money by false pretenses have usually been considered sufficient to protect the rights of fraternity members against swindles of this sort.

Ques. 283. How long does the Grand Lodge of Illinois hold jurisdiction over rejected candidates? Can a rejected candidate petition in another state in a certain length of time?

Answer—The Grand Lodge of Illinois holds to the doctrine of perpetual jurisdiction over rejected candidates. Such persons after removing from the state are subject to the laws that prevail in the other jurisdiction, and that jurisdiction may or may not extend to Illinois the courtesy of conforming to our practices.

Ques. 284. Can an expelled Mason who has been restored to membership in the fraternity by the Grand Lodge become affiliated with the lodge by a two-thirds vote, or must he be elected by unanimous ballot?

Answer—An expelled Mason restored by the Grand Lodge is restored to good standing in the fraternity and is a non-affiliate. A non-affiliate Mason can gain membership in a lodge only upon regular petition and unanimous ballot.

Ques. 286. Can the Master legally delegate authority to the Tyler or any other person to appoint a committee to examine a visiting brother?

Answer—The examination and subsequent avouchment must be satisfactory to the Master, who alone has the authority to give permission for admission. If the Master is satisfied with the committee and accepts its report, it matters very little how the committee is created.

Ques. 287. In calling a special communication of a lodge, what constitutes due and timely notice?

Answer—The answer to this question depends somewhat upon circumstances. Usually an announcement in open lodge, or through the press, or to several brethren is sufficient, but in some cases (trials for example) written notice to all resident members is required. Care should always be taken to avoid discrimination and to make the notice equally open to all members.

Ques. 288. A man was adjudged insane and sent to an asylum. Nine months later he was declared to be of sound mind and released. While in the asylum he was legally dead. Upon his being declared sane is it necessary for the lodge to take any action in order to restore him to membership? If so, what would be the proper method of procedure?

Answer—No action on the part of the lodge is necessary. If a record was made of the judgment of insanity, a record should also be made of the subsequent judg-

ment removing the disability. A court verdict of insanity does not interfere with a Mason's membership in his lodge.

Ques. 289. Why is it that some grand jurisdictions use "F. & A. M.," and others "A. F. & A. M.?"

Answer—It would take several columns or even several issues of THE MASONIC CHRONICLER to give anything like a complete answer to this question, and when all was said, confusion would still exist. An attempt will, however, be made to cast just a little light on the subject, but we must be excused from further discussion of it in this department. About the middle of the eighteenth century a schism arose among English Masons, out of which two factions came into existence, calling themselves respectively, "ancients" and "moderns." Strangely enough the "ancients" were satisfied to be known as Freemasons, while the "moderns" insisted upon the use of "ancient" in their title. To show the futility of any expectation of being able to clear up the controversy the following quotation is given from Gould's Concise History of Freemasonry: "The causes of the great schism in English Masonry have been freely debated in the past and the controversy is still proceeding, but, as it seems to myself, from the day of the earliest writers on the subject down to those of the latest ones, every new solution of the problem only renders it more obscure." From a later page of his history we quote the following: "In November of the same year (1813) the Duke of Athol resigned in favor of the Duke of Kent. The latter was placed in the chair of the 'Ancient' Grand Lodge, Dec. 1, and on the St. John's day following the Freemasons of England were reunited in a single society. One Grand Lodge was then constituted, and at the close of the proceedings, on the motion of the Duke of Kent, the Duke of Sussex was unanimously elected Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of 'Ancient' Freemasons of England." From the above it may be inferred that when grand lodges were formed in this country during the continuance of this schism or who then or later knew or cared very little about trifling differences in nomenclature, they might easily use or discard the word "ancient" at their pleasure. The fact seems to be, however, that at present the term "ancient" is almost universally adopted as a part of the title of Masonic bodies.

Ques. 299. A man applies for the degrees in a Chi-

cago lodge. The petition is handed in by a brother of the aforesaid lodge in the regular way. The Master appointed an investigating committee, all of whom have reported unanimously favorable. Later, the brother who handed in this man's petition has become convinced that the petitioner is unworthy, hence is desirous of preventing him becoming a member of the fraternity. Can the brother who headed this petition object to this person to the Master verbally or in open lodge and request that he be not made a Mason, and has the Master the power to return the fee to the petitioner, or will it be necessary for the Master to order that the ballot be taken in the usual way?

Answer—As the petition has been regularly received by the lodge it cannot be withdrawn, but must be balloted upon. The recommender, having become convinced of the petitioner's unworthiness, has a perfect right to cast a black ball and should do so. If he cannot be present when the ballot is taken he can object to his initiation after his election (not before the ballot) either to the Master or in open lodge.

Ques. 291. A lodge held a stated meeting. Following the stated the Master Mason's degree was conferred. Before closing a motion was made which, if carried, would involve the expenditure of money. The mover urged that it was a case of charity and therefore was not a business matter. The Master held that the motion was out of order. Was the ruling of the Master proper?

Answer—We think the ruling of the Master was in accordance with the law.

Ques. 292. The Master of a lodge appoints the Stewards. One of his appointees has failed to perform his duty. Has the Master the power to declare the office vacant and appoint another Steward?

Answer—After giving the delinquent reasonable notice, the Master should treat his continued neglect of duty as a resignation and appoint another brother in his place.

Ques. 293. A lodge held a special communication in an adjoining hall to its regular meeting place, but in the same building, for the purpose of work. At 7:30 p. m. it moved back into its regular hall. Is it necessary that the lodge close down on the special in the adjoining hall, where the special was held, before returning to its regular hall, or can it merge the special into a regular communication?

Answer—Under the circumstances named, if notice

is given in open lodge of the change of room, we think the merger would conform to the law, but the whole merger business is of doubtful propriety, although sanctioned by law.

Ques. 294. Several years ago a man was initiated in a lodge in Ohio. He moved to Illinois before taking any more degrees. The lodge has now gone out of existence. Can a Chicago lodge receive his petition without the consent of the Ohio Grand Lodge? If not, what course must he pursue in order to gain admission into Masonry?

Answer—The general rule is that when a lodge goes out of existence its territory and unfinished material are inherited by the nearest lodge, to whom application should be made for a waiver of jurisdiction. If the Grand Lodge claims the right to decide the question of waiver (as is true in some states) that fact would develop in the correspondence with the lodge acquiring jurisdiction as above.

Ques. 295. In case a charter is revoked by the Grand Lodge, do the members who are not implicated in any way with the cause of revocation lose their membership in the institution?

Answer—Such members do not lose their membership in the institution, but are entitled to a certificate of good standing in the fraternity issued by the Grand Secretary, which can be used like a dimitt in applying for membership in another lodge.

Ques. 296. Can a non-affiliated Mason take part in the ceremonies of a lodge, such as conferring degrees, etc.?

Answer—We do not know of any law that denies the Master the right to utilize the services of any well-informed brother who may be present, whether affiliated or not, to assist him in conferring degrees. We do not think it good policy, however, to encourage non-affiliation by giving dimitted Masons many honors, besides there is always a chance that the non-affiliate may be excluded by the objection of a member.

Ques. 297. Can a lodge, by vote of its membership, change its name?

Answer—The best answer to this question is found in the Grand Lodge by-law on the subject, which reads as follows: “When a lodge desires to change its name a resolution to that effect, embodying the new name, shall be introduced at a stated meeting, and action deferred to the next or some subsequent stated meeting. Notice

of the proposed change and the date of voting thereon shall be given to all resident members. If the proposed change is favored by a two-thirds ballot, the Secretary shall, under seal, certify the fact to the Grand Secretary thirty days previous to the next meeting of the Grand Lodge, and he shall transmit the same to the Committee on Petitions. If the Grand Lodge consents to the change, the Grand Master, Wardens and Secretary shall sign a proper certificate to be appended to the lodge charter."

Ques. 298. Master announces Second degree work for a certain date. In anticipation that his candidates would be in waiting, he proceeded to close down on the Third degree. After closing he discovered that there were no candidates in waiting for the Second degree, but one in waiting for the Third. Would it be legal to again open on the Third and confer the degree?

Answer—The Grand Lodge by-laws of Illinois do not specifically answer this question, but the principles and traditions of Masonry supplemented by the ritualistic declaration that is made when the lodge is closed and which applies equally to all the degrees, though made but once, long ago established the rule, universally acknowledged to be binding, that when a degree has been regularly closed it cannot again be opened as a part of the same meeting. Although in some particular instance no harm might arise from the violation of this rule, the precedent would be a bad one and would open a door to possible abuses of a serious character and, therefore, it should not be done.

Ques. 299. A member of a Chicago lodge dimitted and before affiliating with another lodge died. Is it the duty of the lodge from which he dimitted to conduct his funeral service?

Answer—After a Mason has dimitted from a lodge his relations to that lodge are the same as to other lodges. So far as the legal obligations of Masonic duty toward him go, all lodges are on an equal footing. Social relations and personal acquaintances would seem to bring these obligations home with peculiar force to the members of his former lodge.

Ques. 301. If a member presents to his lodge the petition of a man who has been rejected in another lodge, he having knowledge of the fact and concealing it, the petitioner also failing to state the truth in his petition, is the member presenting the petition violating the law and subject to discipline?

Answer—The law on this subject is very plain and reads as follows: “Any Mason who shall knowingly recommend for initiation to any lodge any candidate who has been rejected by a lodge, without first having lawful permission of said rejecting lodge, shall be liable to Masonic discipline.”

Ques. 302. Can the Master of a lodge delegate the power to a Past Master to open his lodge when he (the Master) is present?

Answer—The Master being present can utilize the services of any competent Master Mason to perform any part of the work, but the responsibility remains upon the Master. In such cases the brother who is called in acts purely as the mouthpiece or megaphone of the Master.

Ques. 303. In the event of the absence of the Master and Wardens from the city, would it be proper for the Secretary to request the Grand Master to appoint a deputy to open a regular communication of the lodge?

Answer—if the Master and Wardens are out of the jurisdiction of the lodge and an emergency arises which appears to make it necessary for the lodge to hold a meeting, it would be proper for the Secretary to inform the Grand Master of the facts and explain the situation and let the Grand Master determine what to do or whether to do anything.

Ques. 304. Is it illegal for a Warden of a lodge to take part in the formation of a lodge under dispensation?

Answer—The law says that neither the Master, Senior Warden, nor Junior Warden of a chartered lodge shall resign, dimit or take part in the formation of a lodge under dispensation during his official term.

Ques. 305. Can a lodge legally issue a dimit to a newly elected Master before his installation?

Answer—The mere fact of election does not debar a Master-elect from applying for a dimit in the regular way, previous to installation.

Ques. 307. Do you think it wise to adopt the proposed amendment to Grand Lodge by-laws making the presentation of documentary evidence a positive requirement as a preliminary to the examination of a visiting brother?

Answer—We do not think it would be either wise or Masonic to enact an absolute law to that effect. Documentary evidence is often important and valuable as

corroborative proof of Masonic standing, but it should not be given the sole or governing place in determining the question of regularity. It should be considered as incidental rather than fundamental. The proof that a good Mason carries in his head and heart of his Masonic status is worth more than all the evidence he can carry in his pocket.

Ques. 308. Is there any good reason why a Master may not use the New York apron lecture in conferring the First degree?

Answer—There are at least two excellent and conclusive reasons why he should not do this. First, the law found on page 98 of the Blue Book says that no work shall be used save that adopted by the Grand Lodge and taught by the authorized lectures; and, second, if the work is left to the discretion of the Master in one particular, it would as well be left to him in all cases, and uniformity of work would be impossible.

Ques. 309. What is the practical effect of the recently adopted amendment to the Grand Lodge by-laws regarding notice to other lodges of petitions for degrees?

Answer—It is now the duty of a Master, before taking a ballot on a petition for degrees, not only to know that notice of such petition has been given to all other lodges in the same city or town, but also to know that such notice was given at least twenty days before the date of ballot. If this cannot be shown, the ballot must be postponed.

Ques. 310. After a petition for degrees in a lodge has been referred to a committee for investigation, can it be withdrawn at the request of the petitioner?

Answer—It cannot. The law says that no petition for degrees shall be withdrawn or returned after having been received by a lodge unless the same shall be ballotted upon and rejected. The only exception to this rule is where a lodge has by mistake received and referred a petition of an applicant over whom it has no jurisdiction.

Ques. 311. What is the meaning of "A. L." commonly used in connection with Masonic records?

Answer—These letters are the initials of "Anno lucis"—i. e., "In the year of light"—and refer to the traditional date of the creation of the world. (Lucis is the genitive case of the Latin word lux. Lux means light; lucis, of light.)

Ques. 312. Two men, strangers to each other, visited

a lodge. Both were acquainted with a brother who vouched for them to the Tyler at the same time, but failed to introduce them or vouch for one to the other. It was at a late hour and the lodge was closed before they gained admission. Can one of these men vouch for the other in his own lodge?

Answer—If they had Masonic information that the alleged Tyler was a Master Mason engaged in tylng a real lodge, and if all were actually present and distinctly heard the avouchment, this might pass muster as sufficient ground for future avouchment, but there is too much uncertainty about these conditions to make it safe to answer this question in the affirmative.

Ques. 313. Can a Master of a lodge declare the lodge at ease and without further ceremony admit a non-Mason into the lodge room for the purpose of entertainment? Or, would it be better for the Master to call from labor to refreshment for the same purpose?

Answer—When a lodge is declared to be "at ease" it simply means that the usual order and decorum are temporarily suspended inside the lodge room. It does not mean any change in the relations between the lodge and the outer world. In other words, there can be no passing into or out of the lodge, when at ease, without the regular alarm and permission. Therefore if it is desired to admit a non-Mason during the session the lodge must be regularly called to refreshment. The custom which prevails in some lodges of allowing brethren to enter or pass out without permission, when at ease, is entirely without the sanction of law or authority and is directly contrary to what is taught at the schools of instruction.

Ques. 314. A man petitioned a lodge for degrees and was rejected. Later he petitioned another lodge and waiver of jurisdiction was refused by the first lodge. How long a time must elapse before he can renew his petition and have the lodge renew its application for waiver?

Answer—In such cases the application for waiver of jurisdiction may be renewed at pleasure, though not oftener than three times in any one year.

Ques. 315. In case the Junior Warden of a lodge should give his proxy to the Senior Warden, he being unable to attend the meeting of the Grand Lodge, would the Senior Warden have two votes and the Master but one?

Answer—Yes. In such cases the three officers would in effect all be present, one of them by proxy, but his vote would be cast by the brother holding the proxy.

Ques. 316. When a lodge waives jurisdiction over an original petitioner for degrees and the petition is rejected by the lodge acquiring jurisdiction, is it necessary for the last mentioned lodge to again get the consent of the first lodge before acting on the petition?

Answer—When a lodge has once regularly waived jurisdiction over a candidate, the waiver is final and jurisdiction rests in the lodge to which it is granted. There need be no second application for waiver in such cases.

Ques. 317. One lodge requested another to confer the degrees on a candidate, which request, by vote of the lodge, was granted. A member of the second lodge entered objections to the Master. Can the lodge legally proceed with the initiation of the candidate?

Answer—if there is no other reason for staying the candidate than the one given, the lodge may legally proceed with the initiation. A Mason has the right of peremptory objection against a candidate of his own lodge only.

Ques. 318. Can a lodge at a stated meeting vote to change its meeting place without previous special notice to its members?

Answer—We think it may do so, if an emergency arises making it necessary, but it would be better whenever possible to give all resident members notice of a matter so important, and it would be the Master's duty to send all resident members notice of the new location previous to the next meeting.

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